HB 1503 -- Assault of a Utility or Mass Transit Worker

Sponsor: Pace

This bill creates the crime of assault of a utility worker or an employee of a mass transit system in the first, second, and third degrees.

The bill specifies that a person commits this crime in the first degree, a class B felony, if a person attempts to kill or knowingly causes or attempts to cause serious physical injury to a utility worker or mass transit system employee while in the scope of his or her duties.

A person commits this crime in the second degree if a person knowingly causes or attempts to cause physical injury to a utility worker or mass transit employee while in the scope of his or her duties by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument or by means other than a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument; recklessly causes serious physical injury; while in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of a controlled substance, operates a motor vehicle and when so operating, acts with criminal negligence to cause physical injury; acts with criminal negligence to cause physical injury by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument; purposely or recklessly places the worker or employee in apprehension of immediate serious physical injury; or acts with criminal negligence to create a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury. Assault of a utility worker or an employee of a mass transit system in the second degree is a class C felony unless committed under specified situations in which it is a class B felony.

A person commits this crime in the third degree, a class B misdemeanor, if a person recklessly causes physical injury, purposely places the worker or employee in apprehension of immediate physical injury, or knowingly causes or attempts to cause physical contact without consent.