

Utility Worker Protections

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Below are examples of state laws increasing protection against assault for utility workers.

Alabama [§ 13A-6-21](#) defines attempts to prevent utility workers from performing their lawful duty as a crime of second degree assault.

Arizona [SB 1448](#) (Enacted, 2026) expands the definition of aggravated assault to include assaults committed against public utility workers.

Florida [SB 1386](#) (Enacted, 2025) expands protections given to first responders to utility workers.

Georgia [HB 1033](#) (Enacted, 2024) establishes stricter penalties for offenses committed against utility workers.

Idaho [SB 1321](#) (Enacted, 2022) provides further protection of utility workers by making assault on a utility worker a felony on par with assaulting a peace officer, firefighter, EMS personnel, or other similar public service official, and laying out specific penalties.

Illinois [720 ILCS 5/12-2](#) defines assault against utility workers as aggravated assault.

Louisiana [HB 411](#) (Enacted, 2023) clarifies definitions for the aggravated assault upon a utility worker with a firearm.

Mississippi [HB 172](#) (Enacted, 2015) includes utility workers in the list of protected personnel.

Nebraska [LB 191](#) (Enacted, 2023) establishes the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act is established to guarantee priority access to personal protective equipment, medical services, and financial aid during emergencies.

Nevada [AB 321](#) (Enacted, 2023) enhances penalties for assault or battery committed against a utility worker.

New York [SB 2251](#) (Enacted, 2016) elevates assault of a utility worker to a class D felony of assault in the second degree.

North Carolina [SB 311](#) (Enacted, 2025) increases the penalties for assaulting utility or workers.

Tennessee [SB 481](#) (Enacted, 2025) enhances the maximum fine applicable to aggravated assault committed against utility workers.

Texas [SB 482](#) (Enacted, 2025) increases penalties the assault or harassment of utility workers.

Washington [HB 1380](#) (Enacted, 2019) allows the imposition of an aggravated exceptional sentence when circumstances include the assault of a utility worker.

West Virginia [§61-2-10b](#) includes utility workers in the list of protected personnel.

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