

HOUSE No. 1427

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rob Consalvo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the assault on and aggravated harassment of sports officials.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1427

By Representative Consalvo of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1427) of Rob Consalvo, Bruce J. Ayers and Michael D. Brady relative to assault upon and aggravated harassment of sports officials. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the assault on and aggravated harassment of sports officials.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 43A the
2 following section:-

3 Section 43B. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the
4 context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Sporting event”, any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity, any organized athletic
6 activity sponsored by a community, business or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that
7 is a professional or semiprofessional event and any other organized athletic activity enforced by
8 a sports official. A “sporting event” shall also include pre-sporting event and post-sporting event
9 activities and surrounding parking areas.

10 “Sports official”, any individual who enforces the rules of a sporting event including, but
11 not limited to, a referee, umpire, linesman or someone who serves in a similar capacity but may
12 be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of, a local, state,

13 regional or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports
14 officials.

15 (b) Whoever commits an assault or an assault and battery upon a sports official at a
16 sporting event shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years, or
17 by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years, or by a fine of not more
18 than \$5,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

19 (c) Whoever willfully and maliciously engages in a knowing pattern of conduct or series
20 of acts at a sporting event directed at a sports official, which seriously alarms that sports official
21 and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, shall be guilty of
22 the crime of criminal harassment of a sports official and shall be punished by imprisonment in
23 the state prison for not more than 5 years, or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not
24 more than 2½ years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both such fine and
25 imprisonment.