

HOUSE BILL 1761

By Ogles

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1, relative to offenses against sporting officials.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) A person commits assault against a sports official who:

(1) Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to a sports official while the official is officiating a sporting event;

(2) Intentionally or knowingly causes a sports official, while the official is officiating a sporting event, to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury; or

(3) Intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with a sports official while the official is officiating a sporting event and a reasonable person would regard the contact as extremely offensive or provocative.

(b) Assault against a sports official is a Class E felony unless the offense is committed under subdivision (a)(3), in which event, assault against a sports official is a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) As used in this section, "sports official" means an individual who serves as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or who serves in a similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of a local, state, regional, or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect on July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to acts committed on or after that date.