

SENATE BILL 1656

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 13, Part 1, relative to assaulting a sports
official.

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 as a new section thereto:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Sports official" means a person who enforces the rules of an
event, such as a referee, umpire, linesman, or in a similar capacity that
may be known by another title, and who is duly registered as or is a
member of a national, state, regional, or local organization engaged, in
part, in providing education and training to sports officials;

(2) "Sports event" means any interscholastic athletic activity in a
middle school, high school, college, or university in this state, or any other
organized athletic activity in this state, including a professional or
semiprofessional event; and

(3) "Sports participant" means a person who participates in any
official capacity with respect to a sports event and includes an athlete,
referee, umpire, linesman, coach, instructor, administrator, or staff
member.

(b) A person commits assault of a sports official who is not a sports
participant and intentionally causes bodily injury to a sports official:

(1) While the official is performing duties or responsibilities in the
official's capacity as a sports official;

(2) While the sports official is arriving at or departing from the athletic facility at which the sports event occurred; or

(3) In retaliation for or on account of the sport-official's performance of a duty or responsibility within the official's capacity as a sports official.

(c) A person who is guilty of assaulting a sports official shall be punished as follows:

(1) Class A misdemeanor for a first offense with a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of thirty (30) days and a minimum one thousand dollar (\$1,000) fine;

(2) Class A misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense with a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of six (6) months and a minimum five thousand dollar (\$5,000) fine; or

(3) Class E felony if the person assembles with five (5) or more other non-participants for the purpose of assaulting a sports official.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.