

HOUSE No. 1719

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to limited civil liability for 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 SECTION 1. Sports officials who officiate athletic contests at a level of competition in
2 this State shall not be liable to any person or entity in any civil action for injuries or damages
3 claimed to have arisen by virtue of actions or inactions related in any manner to officiating duties
4 within the confines of the athletic facility at which the athletic contest is played.

5 SECTION 2. Sports officials are defined as those individuals who serve as referees,
6 umpires, linemen, and those who serve in similar capacities but may be known by other titles and
7 are duly registered or members of a local, state, regional or national organization which is
8 engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

9 SECTION 3. Nothing in this law shall be deemed to grant the protection set forth to
10 sports officials who cause injury or damage to a person or entity by actions or inactions which
11 are intentional, willful, wanton, reckless, malicious or grossly negligent.

12 SECTION 4. This law shall take effect immediately, and shall apply to all lawsuits filed
13 after the effective date of this law, including those which allege actions or inactions of sports
14 officials which occurred prior to the effective date of this law.