

HOUSE No. 1407

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel Cahill

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 criminal harassment against a sports official.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>8/17/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>8/17/2023</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>8/17/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1407

By Representative Cahill of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1407) of Daniel Cahill and Gerard J. Cassidy relative to criminal harassment against sports officials. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to criminal harassment against a sports official.

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 43B. (Whoever willfully and maliciously engages in an act or series of acts
2 during the course of a sporting event directed at a sports official, who is acting in their official
3 capacity, which threatens serious bodily injury to a sports official that would cause a reasonable
4 person to fear for their personal safety, shall be guilty of the crime of criminal harassment
5 against a sports official and shall be punished by imprisonment in a house of correction for not
6 more than 2 1/2 years or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both such fine and
7 imprisonment. ; and for a second or subsequent offense, by imprisonment in the state prison for
8 not less than five nor more than ten years.

9 As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
10 otherwise, have the following meanings:-

11 "Sports official", any person who serves as a referee, umpire, line judge, scorer, timer, or
12 who acts in any similar capacity, whether paid or volunteer, during a sporting event and is

13 registered by, or a member of, a local, state, regional or national organization engaged in
14 providing education and training to sports officials.

15 “Sporting event”, any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle,
16 junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a
17 community, business, or nonprofit organization, or any semiprofessional athletic activity that is
18 officiated by a sports official.