

HOUSE No. 1475

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rodney M. Elliott

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 to prevent assaults on sports officials.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>8/2/2023</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>8/2/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>8/2/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1475

By Representative Elliott of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1475) of Rodney M. Elliott and James C. Arena-DeRosa for legislation to prevent assaults on sports officials. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to prevent assaults on 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 adding the following section:-

2 Section 13O. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following term shall, unless the
3 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meaning:

4 "Sports official", any individual who serves as a paid or volunteer referee, umpire or line
5 judge, or who serves in similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name.

6 (b) If a person: (i) commits an assault or an assault and battery on a sports official
7 immediately prior to, during or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate or any
8 other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the sports official is
9 participating; and (ii) knows or reasonably should know that the sports official engaged in the
10 performance of their duties, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 and not
11 more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not less than 90 days and not
12 more than 2 1/2 years, or both.

13 (c) No person shall require a sports official to remain on the playing surface of an athletic
14 contest after the expiration of any interscholastic, intercollegiate or any other organized amateur
15 or sporting contest. Whoever violates the provisions of this subsection shall be punished by a
16 fine of not more than \$200 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days.