

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1427**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Rob Consalvo***

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*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 the assault on and aggravated harassment of sports officials.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>2/28/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/11/2023</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>4/11/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>6/21/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/21/2023</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>6/21/2023</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>7/25/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>8/14/2023</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>8/14/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1427**

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By Representative Consalvo of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1427) of Rob Consalvo, Bruce J. Ayers and Michael D. Brady relative to assault upon and aggravated harassment of sports officials. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to the assault on and aggravated harassment of 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 inserting after section 43A the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 43B. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the  
4 context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Sporting event”, any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity, any organized athletic  
6 activity sponsored by a community, business or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that  
7 is a professional or semiprofessional event and any other organized athletic activity enforced by  
8 a sports official. A “sporting event” shall also include pre-sporting event and post-sporting event  
9 activities and surrounding parking areas.

10 “Sports official”, any individual who enforces the rules of a sporting event including, but  
11 not limited to, a referee, umpire, linesman or someone who serves in a similar capacity but may  
12 be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of, a local, state,

13 regional or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports  
14 officials.

15 (b) Whoever commits an assault or an assault and battery upon a sports official at a  
16 sporting event shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years, or  
17 by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years, or by a fine of not more  
18 than \$5,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

19 (c) Whoever willfully and maliciously engages in a knowing pattern of conduct or series  
20 of acts at a sporting event directed at a sports official, which seriously alarms that sports official  
21 and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, shall be guilty of  
22 the crime of criminal harassment of a sports official and shall be punished by imprisonment in  
23 the state prison for not more than 5 years, or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not  
24 more than 2½ years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both such fine and  
25 imprisonment.