

HOUSE No.

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>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

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