

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1600

**TITLE:** An Act relative to criminal harassment against a sports official

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Daniel Cahill

**COSPONSORS:** Rep. David F. DeCoste

**HEARING DATE:** May 6, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H1407 (2023-2024)  
H1481 (2021-2022)  
H1370 (2019-2020)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 13A Chapter 265 of the General Laws makes assault and battery a crime punishable by 2.5 years in a house of correction or a \$1,000 fine or if it causes serious bodily injury punishment may be elevated to 5 years in state prison.

Section 43A defines harassment as a willful and malicious pattern of conduct or series of acts directed at a person which seriously alarms the person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. This is punishable by up to 2.5 years' incarceration or a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. A second or subsequent harassment crime is punishable by incarceration for up to 2.5 years in jail or up to 10 years in state prison or by a fine of not more than \$15,000, or both.

Section 36A of Chapter 272 punishes the use of profane or obscene language or slander against a sporting official with up to a \$50 fine.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Section to Chapter 265 prohibiting willful or malicious actions against a sports official acting in their official capacity during a sporting event that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their personal safety. This is considered criminal

harassment and is punishable by up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. A second or subsequent offense is punishable by up to 2.5 years in a house of correction or up to 10 years in state prison. It further defines “sports official” and “sporting event.”