

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1969

TITLE: An Act concerning assault of a sports official

SPONSOR: Rep. Jeff Roy

COSPONSORS: Sen. Patrick O'Connor
Rep. Thomas Stanley

HEARING DATE: May 6, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1753 (2023-2024)

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.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds a new section to Chapter 265 prohibiting the assault or assault and battery of a sporting official while undertaking their official duties. It imposes a penalty of up to 1 year in prison, or an up to \$1,000 fine, or both, on anyone who assaults, batters or assaults and batters an individual who performs his or her duties as a sports official immediately before, during or after a sporting event, or at any other time if the assault, battery or assault and battery directly arises from the sports official's execution of his or her duty as a sports official. If such an action results in serious bodily injury requiring medical attention or medical care, the penalty increases to up to 2 years in prison or a \$2,000 fine, or both. If such an action causes the individual serious impairment of a body function, the penalty increases to up to 5 years in prison, or a fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000, or both.