

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4765

BY DELEGATE HORNBUCKLE

[Introduced February 15, 2022; Referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-15a of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, relating to
2 increasing the fines for conviction of assault or battery of athletic officials.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.

§61-2-15a. Assault, battery on athletic officials; penalties.

1 (a) If any person commits an assault as defined in subsection (b), section nine of this
2 article, to the person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official,
3 the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less
4 than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and
5 confined.

6 (b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in subsection (c), section nine of this article,
7 against an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender
8 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$1,000
9 nor more than \$3,000, or confined in jail not more than 12 months, or both fined and confined.

10 (c) For the purpose of this section, "athletic official" means a person at a sports event who
11 enforces the rules of that event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the
12 participants, such as a coach.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the penalties for persons convicted of assault or battery upon athletic officials: the Safe Play Act.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.