

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4236**

By Delegate Hornbuckle

[Introduced January 10, 2024; 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 §61-2-9(b) of this code, to the person of  
2 an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of  
3 a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$500 nor more than  
4 \$1,000, or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined.

5 (b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in §61-2- 9(c) of this code, against an  
6 athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a  
7 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$1,000 nor more  
8 than \$3,000, or confined in jail not more than 12 months, or both fined and confined.

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