

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2804

By Delegates Linville, Rohrbach, Lucas, Browning,

Hite, and Hornby

[Introduced February 21, 2025; referred to the

Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-15a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to enhancing penalties for assault on athletic officials; and creating criminal penalties.

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 than a~~ a
4 minimum of \$500, or confined in jail ~~not~~ for no less than one nor more than six months, or both
5 fined and 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 is
8 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined ~~not more than a minimum of~~
9 \$1,000, or confined in jail ~~not~~ no less than six nor more than ~~twelve~~ 12 months, or both fined and
10 confined.

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

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to enhance the criminal penalties for assault and battery on athletic officials.

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