

HOUSE No. 1370

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Daniel Cahill

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to criminal harassment against a sports official.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Daniel Cahill

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

10th Essex

HOUSE No. 1370

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1370) of Daniel Cahill relative to the penalty for criminal harassment against sports officials. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to criminal harassment against a sports official.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 43B. (a) Whoever willfully and maliciously engages in an act or series of acts
2 during the course of a sporting event directed at a sports official, who is acting in their official
3 capacity, which seriously alarms that sports official and would cause a reasonable person to
4 suffer substantial emotional distress, shall be guilty of the crime of criminal harassment against a
5 sports official and shall be punished by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than
6 2 1/2 years or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

7 (b) Whoever, after having been convicted of the crime of criminal harassment against a
8 sports official, commits a second or subsequent such crime shall be punished by imprisonment in
9 a house of correction for not more than 2 1/2 years or by imprisonment in the state prison for not
10 more than ten years.

11 (c) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
12 otherwise, have the following meanings:-

13 “Sports official”, any person who serves as a referee, umpire, line judge, scorer, timer, or
14 who acts in any similar capacity, whether paid or volunteer, during a sporting event and is
15 registered by, or a member of, a local, state, regional or national organization engaged in
16 providing education and training to sports officials.

17 “Sporting event”, any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle,
18 junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a
19 community, business, or nonprofit organization, or any semiprofessional athletic activity that is
20 officiated by a sports official.