

Senate File 521 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 521
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1193)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to assaults on sports officials, making
2 penalties applicable, and including effective date
3 provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 708.3A, subsections 1, 2, 3, and 4, Code
2 2023, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section
4 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,
5 member or employee of the board of parole, health care
6 provider, employee of the department of human services,
7 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member
8 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian
9 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a
10 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer,
11 or sports official, with the knowledge that the person against
12 whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer,
13 correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole,
14 health care provider, employee of the department of human
15 services, employee of the department of revenue, national
16 guard member engaged in national guard duty or state active
17 duty, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian
18 employee of a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports
19 official, and with the intent to inflict a serious injury
20 upon the peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member
21 or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,
22 employee of the department of human services, employee of
23 the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in
24 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee
25 of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire
26 department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, is guilty of a
27 class "D" felony.

28 2. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section
29 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,
30 member or employee of the board of parole, health care
31 provider, employee of the department of human services,
32 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member
33 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian
34 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a
35 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer,

1 or sports official, who knows that the person against whom the
2 assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional
3 staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health
4 care provider, employee of the department of human services,
5 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member
6 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian
7 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a
8 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, and who
9 uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the
10 assault, is guilty of a class "D" felony.

11 3. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section
12 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,
13 member or employee of the board of parole, health care
14 provider, employee of the department of human services,
15 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member
16 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian
17 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a
18 fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer,
19 or sports official, who knows that the person against whom the
20 assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional
21 staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health
22 care provider, employee of the department of human services,
23 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member
24 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian
25 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of
26 a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, and
27 who causes bodily injury or mental illness, is guilty of an
28 aggravated misdemeanor.

29 4. Any other assault, as defined in [section 708.1](#), committed
30 against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member
31 or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,
32 employee of the department of human services, employee of
33 the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in
34 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee
35 of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire

1 department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, or
2 sports official, by a person who knows that the person against
3 whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer,
4 correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole,
5 health care provider, employee of the department of human
6 services, employee of the department of revenue, national
7 guard member engaged in national guard duty or state active
8 duty, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian
9 employee of a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports
10 official, is a serious misdemeanor.

11 Sec. 2. Section 708.3A, subsection 5, Code 2023, is amended
12 by adding the following new paragraph:

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oh.* "Sports official" means an individual
14 who serves as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or in a similar
15 capacity, at any athletic contest, and who is a member of
16 or registered with a local, state, regional, or national
17 organization that is engaged, in part, in providing education
18 and training to referees, umpires, linesmen, or persons in
19 similar capacities.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
21 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to assaults on sports officials.

26 Current law provides that a person who commits an assault,
27 as defined in Code section 708.1, with the knowledge that
28 the other person is a peace officer, jailer, correctional
29 staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health
30 care provider, employee of the department of human services,
31 employee of the department of revenue, national guard member
32 engaged in national guard duty or state active duty, civilian
33 employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a
34 fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, is
35 guilty of an offense with penalties ranging from an aggravated

1 misdemeanor up to a class "D" felony. The bill adds "sports
2 officials" to the list of protected occupations.

3 The bill provides that a person who commits an assault
4 against a sports official, with the knowledge that the person
5 against whom the assault is committed is a sports official,
6 and with the intent to commit a serious injury, is guilty of a
7 class "D" felony. The bill provides that a person who commits
8 an assault against a sports official, who knows that the person
9 against whom the assault is committed is a sports official, and
10 who uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the
11 assault, is guilty of a class "D" felony. The bill provides
12 that a person who commits an assault against a sports official,
13 who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed
14 is a sports official, and who causes bodily injury or mental
15 illness, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. The bill
16 provides that any other assault committed against a sports
17 official by a person who knows that the person against whom
18 the assault is committed is a sports official is a serious
19 misdemeanor.

20 A class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no
21 more than five years and a fine of at least \$1,025 but not
22 more than \$10,245. An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable
23 by confinement for no more than two years and a fine of at
24 least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. A serious misdemeanor is
25 punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a fine
26 of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.

27 The bill defines "sports official" as an individual who
28 serves as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or in a similar
29 capacity, at any athletic contest, and who is a member of
30 or registered with a local, state, regional, or national
31 organization that is engaged, in part, in providing education
32 and training to sports officials.

33 The bill takes effect upon enactment.