

**Senate File 50 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 50  
BY REICHMAN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to civil liability of sports officials, providing  
2 criminal penalties for assault of sports officials, and  
3 including effective date and applicability provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **671B.1 Definition.**

2 "*Sports official*" means the same as defined in section 708.3A.

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **671B.2 Sports officials — limitation**  
4 **of liability.**

5 A sports official who officiates an athletic contest at any  
6 level of competition in this state shall not be liable to any  
7 person in any civil action for injuries or damages claimed to  
8 have arisen due to actions or inactions within the confines of  
9 the athletic facility at which the athletic contest is played  
10 related in any manner to the sports official's officiating  
11 duties.

12 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **671B.3 Sports officials — liability**  
13 **protection not applicable.**

14 This chapter does not apply to a sports official who causes  
15 injury or damage to a person by actions or inactions that are  
16 intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent.

17 Sec. 4. Section 708.3A, subsections 1, 2, 3, and 4, Code  
18 2025, are amended to read as follows:

19 1. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section  
20 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
21 member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,  
22 employee of the department of health and human services, employee  
23 of the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in  
24 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a  
25 law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department,  
26 or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, with the knowledge  
27 that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace  
28 officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the  
29 board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department  
30 of health and human services, employee of the department of  
31 revenue, national guard member engaged in national guard duty or  
32 state active duty, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency,  
33 civilian employee of a fire department, ~~or~~ fire fighter, or  
34 sports official, and with the intent to inflict a serious injury  
35 upon the peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or

1 employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee  
2 of the department of health and human services, employee of the  
3 department of revenue, national guard member engaged in national  
4 guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a law  
5 enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, ~~or~~  
6 fire fighter, or sports official, is guilty of a class "D"  
7 felony.

8 2. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section  
9 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
10 member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,  
11 employee of the department of health and human services, employee  
12 of the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in  
13 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a  
14 law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department,  
15 ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, whether paid or volunteer,  
16 who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed  
17 is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or  
18 employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee  
19 of the department of health and human services, employee of the  
20 department of revenue, national guard member engaged in national  
21 guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a law  
22 enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, ~~or~~  
23 fire fighter, or sports official, and who uses or displays a  
24 dangerous weapon in connection with the assault, is guilty of a  
25 class "D" felony.

26 3. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section  
27 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
28 member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,  
29 employee of the department of health and human services, employee  
30 of the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in  
31 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a  
32 law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department,  
33 ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, whether paid or volunteer,  
34 who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed  
35 is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or

1 employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee  
2 of the department of health and human services, employee of the  
3 department of revenue, national guard member engaged in national  
4 guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a law  
5 enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, ~~or~~  
6 fire fighter, or sports official, and who causes bodily injury or  
7 mental illness, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

8 4. Any other assault, as defined in section 708.1, committed  
9 against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or  
10 employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee  
11 of the department of health and human services, employee of the  
12 department of revenue, national guard member engaged in national  
13 guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a law  
14 enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, ~~or~~  
15 fire fighter, or sports official, whether paid or volunteer, by  
16 a person who knows that the person against whom the assault  
17 is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff,  
18 member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider,  
19 employee of the department of health and human services, employee  
20 of the department of revenue, national guard member engaged in  
21 national guard duty or state active duty, civilian employee of a  
22 law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department,  
23 ~~or~~ fire fighter, or sports official, is a serious misdemeanor.

24 Sec. 5. Section 708.3A, subsection 5, Code 2025, is amended  
25 by adding the following new paragraph:

26 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oh.* "Sports official" means an individual  
27 who serves as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or in a similar  
28 capacity, at any athletic contest, and who is a member of  
29 or registered with a local, state, regional, or national  
30 organization that is engaged, in part, in providing education and  
31 training to referees, umpires, linesman, or persons in similar  
32 capacities.

33 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
34 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

35 Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to legal actions

1 commenced on or after the effective date of this Act, including  
2 legal actions that allege actions or inactions of a sports  
3 official that occurred prior to the effective date of this Act:

- 4 1. The section of this Act enacting section 671B.1.
- 5 2. The section of this Act enacting section 671B.2.
- 6 3. The section of this Act enacting section 671B.3.

7 EXPLANATION

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

10 This bill provides that a sports official who officiates an  
11 athletic contest at any level of competition in Iowa shall not  
12 be liable to any person in any civil action for injuries or  
13 damages claimed to have arisen due to actions or inactions within  
14 the confines of the athletic facility at which the athletic  
15 contest is played related in any manner to the sports official's  
16 officiating duties. This provision does not apply to a sports  
17 official who causes injury or damage to a person by actions or  
18 inactions that are intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent.  
19 The bill applies to legal actions commenced on or after the  
20 effective date of the bill, including legal actions that allege  
21 actions or inactions of a sports official that occurred prior to  
22 the effective date of the bill.

23 The bill provides that a person who commits an assault against  
24 a sports official, with the knowledge that the person against  
25 whom the assault is committed is a sports official, and with  
26 the intent to commit a serious injury, is guilty of a class "D"  
27 felony. The bill provides that a person who commits an assault  
28 against a sports official, who knows that the person against whom  
29 the assault is committed is a sports official, and who uses or  
30 displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the assault, is  
31 guilty of a class "D" felony. The bill provides that a person  
32 who commits an assault against a sports official, who knows that  
33 the person against whom the assault is committed is a sports  
34 official, and who causes bodily injury or mental illness, is  
35 guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. The bill provides that any

1 other assault committed against a sports official by a person who  
2 knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is  
3 a sports official is a serious misdemeanor. A class "D" felony  
4 is punishable by confinement for no more than five years and a  
5 fine of at least \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245. An aggravated  
6 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two  
7 years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. A  
8 serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than  
9 one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.  
10 The bill defines "sports official" as an individual who serves  
11 as a referee, umpire, or linesman, or in a similar capacity, at  
12 any athletic contest, and who is a member of or registered with a  
13 local, state, regional, or national organization that is engaged,  
14 in part, in providing education and training to sports officials.  
15 The bill takes effect upon enactment.