

Subject Increasing the penalty for assaulting a sports official

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Overview

Minnesota law establishes a misdemeanor penalty for assault in the fifth degree which includes most assaults that do not cause serious harm to another person. An assault of certain individuals qualifies as an assault in the fourth degree and carries an enhanced penalty. This enhancement applies when the victim is performing certain official duties including working as a peace officer, firefighter, correctional employee, school official, and transit operator. It also applies when an assault is motivated by bias or committed against a vulnerable adult. Assaults that cause more serious harm or involve the use of a dangerous weapon remain first-, second-, or third-degree assaults.

This bill would add assault of a sports official to the crime of assault in the fourth degree and establish a gross misdemeanor penalty for such an assault.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	<p>Sports official.</p> <p>Establishes an enhanced penalty of a gross misdemeanor for assaulting a sports official and inflicting demonstrable bodily harm if the official is performing official duties. Defines sports official to include a person serving as an umpire, referee, judge, linesperson, timer, scorekeeper, or any similar person for a youth activity. States that a person is engaged in official duties while at a sporting event and while travelling to and from the event.</p>
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