

**PROTECTION OF SPORTS OFFICIALS FROM
VIOLENT ABUSE**

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David L. Hogue

This act modifies the Criminal Code by providing a specific criminal penalty for committing an assault against a sports official and provides related definitions.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

ENACTS:

76-5-102.9, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **76-5-102.9** is enacted to read:

76-5-102.9. Assault against a sports official.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Sports event" means:

(i) any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary or middle school, junior high or high school, college, or university;

(ii) any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization;

(iii) any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event; or

(iv) any other organized and lawful athletic activity in the state.

(b) "Sports official" means a person at a sports event who:

(i) serves as a referee, umpire, linesperson, timekeeper, coach, or any person who serves in a similar capacity but who may be known by other titles, and is a member of or is registered with a local, state, regional, or national organization that is engaged in providing education and training for sports officiating; or

(ii) supervises the participants, such as a coach, trainer, team attendant, game manager,

28 athletic director, assistant athletic director, president, dean, headmaster, principal, or assistant
29 principal of a school, college, or university.

30 (2) Any person who assaults a sports official is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if:

31 (a) the assault is committed against a sports official immediately prior to, during, or after
32 a sports event during which the victim is acting as a sports official;

33 (b) the person knew or reasonably should have known that the victim was acting as a
34 sports official; and

35 (c) the assault is an act not subject to a greater penalty under another provision of state law.

Legislative Review Note

as of 12-20-00 7:23 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel