

1 **PROTECTION OF SPORTS OFFICIALS FROM**
2 **VIOLENT ABUSE**

3 2002 GENERAL SESSION
4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Sponsor: David L. Hogue**

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

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

9 ENACTS:

10 **76-5-102.9**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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

13 **76-5-102.9. Assault against a sports official.**

14 (1) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Sports event" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (iii) the assault is an act not subject to a greater penalty under another provision of state
36 law; and

37 (iv) the assault is committed by a person who was attending, participating in, or involved
38 in the event; or

39 (b) the assault is committed in retaliation for any act or decision of the victim committed
40 while acting as a sports official.

Legislative Review Note
as of 8-22-01 11:41 AM

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

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel