

Bill Number # SB-1034
In Favor of the Bill

Testimony

I am a cricket official, registered under USA Cricket Umpire Association and USA Cricket and member of National Association of Sports Officials. I have been umpiring since 2011 and most of time I umpire in DC, MD, VA region.

Sports officials are there to officiate sports, as per respective laws and rules of the sports, to maintain safety and fairness of the participating players in utmost honesty and unbiased way. However, sometime sports officials do face physical assaults, threats, intimidating and racial slur.

I will share a personnel incident that I faced while umpiring a final game in Washington Cricket League, in Hyattsville, MD. Said incident occurred on September 23, 2017. During the match, one of the team, not being happy with one of the decisions charged towards me and pushed me physically and used abusive and racial slurs. Sadly, the offending team has a history of such behavior. In the absence of any strong law in Maryland, players/teams keep repeating their rowdy and aggressive behavior knowing they would get away easily without facing any charges. These Leagues and associations at most can suspended/ban and/or give some financial fines to the offending players and teams. But due to lack of law, people doing physical assaults get away without facing any charges which otherwise is a criminal offense. This give them encouragement to repeat their horrible behavior.

These types of incidents represent bad image of ay sports, make it unsafe, and discourage others to take up sports or officiating roles, special for amateur players, kids and parents of kids. I am very sure this bill will bring a layer of safety for sports officials, participating players, supporting staff and spectators. I would like to tell that I support this bill fully.

Thank you for the consideration and introducing this bill, SB-1034.

Thank you
Aveek Gangopadhyay
Rockville, MD