

**FW: (SB-1034)**

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Fri 2/28/2020 1:29 PM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

*Favorable*

**From:** joegebhart@aol.com [mailto:joegebhart@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 12:35 PM

**To:** Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

**Subject:** (SB-1034)

As a 30 year member of the Bayside High School Football Officials, and 15 years as a College Referee I have run into a number of times with parents, fans and players have followed me to my car, threatened me and my crew and nothing seems to be done. There is a major shortage in this state for officials and some protection for them might help people consider becoming one.

One particular problem occurred at a Salvation Army Boys Club 10-12 year old players, where a high school state final playoff crew volunteered their time to work a game and was chased to their cars by parents. That crew was one of the highest rated crews in the state playoffs.

Working a Semi-Pro game I ejected a player for fighting and he told me he would meet me in the parking lot.

There needs to be some sort of law to have people think twice before going after officials. Delaware has laws protecting officials and Maryland should also.

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-----Original Message-----

From: joegebhart <joegebhart@aol.com>

To: Bob.Cannon <Bob.Cannon@perdue.com>

Sent: Fri, Feb 28, 2020 11:57 am

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Maryland does not have strong laws in place supporting sports officials who are victims of menacing harassment or assault. To correct this, Maryland State Senators Klausmeier and Patterson will be introducing Bill #1034 for a hearing in the first week of March.

Clate Jackson, Senator Patterson's Legislative Aide and basketball referee with IAABO for the last 18 years, is the architect of the new bill. He explained the details the new legislation as follows:

DETAILS OF BILL #1034

The offense of assault against a sports official will remain a misdemeanor under second degree assault (CL 3-203) but will carry a 10 YEAR penalty, 2,500 fine. It also allows officers to arrest the person EVEN if it occurs outside of his or her presence, a distinction the general public does not enjoy. This arrest issue was