

**HB 1053:** Criminal Law - Second Degree Assault - Sports Official: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 1053**, concerning *Criminal Law – Second Degree Assault – Sports Official*.

Sports officials play a critical role in maintaining fairness, safety, and order in athletic competitions at all levels. Unfortunately, there has been a troubling increase in incidents where referees, umpires, and other officials face harassment, threats, and even physical assault while performing their duties.

**HB 1053 sends a clear message that violence against sports officials is unacceptable.** By explicitly addressing second degree assault against sports officials, the bill helps reinforce protections for individuals who serve an essential role in youth, school, and community athletics.

Without officials, organized sports cannot function. Protecting them helps ensure that games and competitions can take place in a safe and respectful environment for athletes, coaches, families, and spectators alike. Strong legal protections may also help encourage more individuals to serve as officials at a time when many leagues are experiencing shortages due to safety concerns.

Promoting respect, accountability, and safety in sports benefits everyone involved and helps preserve the positive values that athletics are meant to teach.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 1053**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals