

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 531

By Senators Woelfel, Oliverio, and Hamilton

[Reported March 19, 2025, from the Committee on
Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-15a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to the offenses of assault and battery on athletic officials; modifying criminal penalties for
3 assault and battery on athletic officials; and redefining "athletic official".

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.

§61-2-15a. Assault, battery on athletic officials; penalties.

1 (a) If any person commits an assault, as defined in §61-2-9(b) of this code, to the person of
2 an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of
3 a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$500 nor more than
4 \$1,000, or confined in jail not less than one nor more than six months, or both fined and confined.

5 (b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in §61-2-9(c) of this code, ~~against~~ to the
6 person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is
7 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than \$1,000 nor
8 more than \$2,000, or confined in jail not less than six nor more than twelve months, or both fined
9 and confined.

10 (c) For the purpose of this section, "athletic official" means a person at a ~~sports~~ an
11 organized sporting event who enforces the rules of that event, such as an umpire or referee, or a
12 ~~person who supervises the participants, such as a coach or other athletic staff.~~