WEST virginia legislature

2025 regular session

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 531

By Senators Woelfel, Oliverio, Hamilton, Fuller, Willis, Taylor, and Helton

[Reported March 27, 2025, from the Committee on the Judiciary]

A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-15a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the offenses of assault and battery on athletic officials; increasing the fines for assault or battery on athletic officials; and providing criminal penalties for the offenses.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Article 2. Crimes Against the Person.

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

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

(b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in §61-2-9(c) of this code, ~~against~~ to the person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, or traveling to and from an organized sporting event as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than $1,000 nor more than $2,000, or confined in jail not more than ~~twelve~~ 12 months, or both fined and confined.

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