

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1496

By: Representatives Hawk, Evans, Jean
By: Senator Crowell

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABUSE OF AN
ATHLETIC CONTEST OFFICIAL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABUSE OF AN
ATHLETIC CONTEST OFFICIAL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-13-209 is amended to read as follows:
5-13-209. Abuse of athletic contest officials.

(a) A person commits abuse of an athletic official if, ~~with the purpose of causing physical injury to another person, the person strikes or otherwise physically abuses an athletic contest official~~ immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which ~~the~~ an athletic contest official is participating~~r~~, the person:

(1) With the purpose of causing physical injury to an athletic contest official, causes physical injury to an athletic contest official;

(2) With the purpose of causing physical contact with an athletic contest official, causes physical contact with an athletic contest official that is abusive, harassing, or offensive; or

(3) Purposely creates apprehension of imminent physical injury in an athletic contest official.

(b) Abuse of an athletic contest official is a:

(1) Class A misdemeanor. D felony under subdivision (a)(1) of



1 this section; and

2 (2) Class A misdemeanor under subdivision (a)(2) or (a)(3) of
3 this section.