

STATE OF NEW YORK

662

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. GALLIVAN, BORRELLO, HELMING, MURRAY, OBERACKER, RHOADS, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to the assault on sports officials

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 14 of section 120.05 of the penal law, as added
2 by chapter 268 of the laws of 2016, is amended and a new subdivision 15
3 is added to read as follows:

4 14. With intent to prevent or obstruct a process server, as defined in
5 section eighty-nine-t of the general business law, from performing a
6 lawful duty pursuant to article three of the civil practice law and
7 rules, or intentionally, as retaliation against such a process server
8 for the performance of the process server's duties pursuant to such
9 article, including by means of releasing or failing to control an animal
10 evincing the actor's intent that the animal prevent or obstruct the
11 lawful duty of the process server or as retaliation against the process
12 server, [~~he or she~~] such person causes physical injury to such process
13 server[-]; or

14 15. With intent to cause physical injury to a sports official, which
15 shall include umpires, referees, judges, linesmen, coaches, assistant
16 coaches, and any other person participating in an official or substitute
17 capacity at a sports contest, such person causes such injury to such
18 sports official in or on or within any building, structure, athletic
19 playing field or playground at which the sports contest including pre-
20 game and post-game activities are conducted; including any and all
21 surrounding parking facilities or areas designated for parking for such
22 sports contests.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02625-01-5

1 § 2. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 240.34 to read
2 as follows:

3 § 240.34 Aggravated harassment of a sports official.

4 A person is guilty of aggravated harassment of a sports official when,
5 with intent to harass, annoy, threaten or alarm a sports official, which
6 shall include umpires, referees, judges, linesmen, coaches, assistant
7 coaches, and any other person participating in an official or substitute
8 capacity at a sports contest, such person:

9 1. Strikes, shoves, kicks or otherwise subjects such sports official
10 to physical contact, or attempts to threaten to do the same;

11 2. Causes or attempts to cause such sports official to come into
12 contact with saliva by expelling such fluid at a sports contest; or

13 3. Communicates a threat to cause physical harm to, or unlawful harm
14 to the property of a sports official, and the person knows or reasonably
15 should know that such communication will cause such sports official to
16 reasonably fear harm to such official's physical safety or property.

17 Aggravated harassment of a sports official is a class B misdemeanor.

18 § 3. The education department of the state of New York shall establish
19 an information campaign to be distributed to all youth sports programs,
20 school sports programs, amateur sports programs, and intercollegiate
21 sports programs, requiring such programs to disseminate information to
22 parents and other spectators of such programs on the protections
23 afforded sports officials. In particular, the information campaign shall
24 instruct spectators of such sports programs on the appropriate behavior
25 to exhibit when observing such applicable sports events and that harass-
26 ing or assaulting a sports official due to a decision made by such offi-
27 cial may result in the filing of criminal charges against such specta-
28 tor. Such sports programs must provide the information prepared by such
29 department pursuant to this section to parents and other prospective
30 spectators at the start of each sports season. Such information may be
31 disseminated via a school's website or if available, a website dedicated
32 to a youth or other sports program.

33 § 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
34 it shall have become a law.