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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 9, 2022

Subject: Bill Brief on HB 2542

HB 2542 creates the crime of abuse of a sports official.

The bill enacts a new section of law that would provide that abuse of a sports official is intentionally (1) striking, shoving, kicking, spitting on or otherwise causing physical contact with a sports official or threatening to engage in such conduct, (2) approaching a sports official in a menacing, threatening, irate or violent manner that would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person's safety, or (3) directing threatening, abusive or obscene language or making obscene gestures toward a sports official that would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person's safety.

Abuse of a sports official would be a class B person misdemeanor, unless the sports official is less than 18 years of age, in which case it would be a class A person misdemeanor. The bill also defines "sports official" as a person who serves as referee, umpire, linesman, timekeeper, assistant, inspector or judge or who performs similar functions as a competitive event, whether paid or unpaid.