

## PROPOSED Substitute for HOUSE BILL NO. 2139

By Committee on Education

AN ACT concerning sports officials; prohibiting abuse of sports officials and providing penalties therefor.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to abuse a sports official while on the grounds of any public recreational or playground facility by 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.

(b) A violation of this section is a:

(1) Class B person misdemeanor, except as provided in subsection (b)(2); and

(2) class A person misdemeanor, if the sports official is less than 18 years of age.

(c) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Public recreational or playground facility" means any facility owned, operated or maintained by any city, county or township for the primary purpose of providing recreational activities to members of the public; and

(2) "sports official" means a person who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, timekeeper, assistant, inspector or judge, or performs similar functions at a competitive event, whether paid or unpaid.

Sec. 2. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to abuse a sports official during any

activity or while on the grounds of any school operated by a school district or any other school that is hosting such activity by 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.

(b) A violation of this section is a:

(1) Class B person misdemeanor, except as provided in subsection (b)(2); and

(2) class A person misdemeanor, if the sports official is less than 18 years of age.

(c) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Activity" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 72-7117, and amendments thereto;

and

(2) "sports official" means a person who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, timekeeper, assistant, inspector or judge, or performs similar functions at a competitive event, whether paid or unpaid.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.