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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Barker
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 19, 2020

Subject: HB 2520 – Assault and battery of a sports official.

House Bill No. 2520 (HB 2520) would create the crimes of assault of a sports official and battery against a sports official. A "sports official" is already defined in the criminal code for purposes of sports bribery as "any person who acts or expects to act in a sports contest as an umpire, referee, judge or otherwise to officiate at a sports contest." This same definition would apply under HB 2520 to both crimes being created.

Section 1 of HB 2520 creates the crime of assault of a sports official and aggravated assault of a sports official. Both versions of the crime require the same elements as assault and aggravated assault generally, but also require that the crime be committed against a sports official on the premises of an athletic facility where an athletic contest is held and in which the sports official is engaged in the performance of their duties.

While assault is a class C person misdemeanor, assault of a sports official would be a class B person misdemeanor. Aggravated assault is generally a level 7, person felony, but aggravated assault of sports official would be a level 6, person felony.

Section 2 of HB 2520 creates the crime of battery of a sports official. This crime would require the same elements as battery generally, but also requires that the crime be committed against a sports official on the premises of an athletic facility where an athletic contest is held and in which the sports official is engaged in the performance of their duties. While battery generally is a class B person misdemeanor, battery against a sports official would be a class A person misdemeanor.

If enacted, HB 2520 would become effective on July 1, 2020.