

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/15/23

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1496

By: Representatives Hawk, Evans, Jean, *McCullough*

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, the person:

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

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

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

(4) 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~~, B felony under subdivision (a)(1) of this section;

(2) Class C felony under subdivision (a)(2) of this section;

(3) Class A misdemeanor under subdivision (a)(3) of this section with a minimum fine of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); and

(4) Class A misdemeanor under subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

/s/Hawk

**APPROVED: 3/30/23**