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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Thomas
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 2, 2023

Subject: HB 2139 – Creating the crime of abuse of a sports official.

House Bill No. 2139 (HB 2139) would create a new crime of abuse of a sports official. Current criminal law makes the conduct described in HB 2139 an unlawful assault or battery. However, HB 2139 specifies penalties for such conduct directed at a sports official. The term “sports official” is defined to include referees, umpires, linesmen, timekeepers, assistants, inspectors, and judges, or any person who performs a similar function at a competitive event.

The criminal elements include physical assault, spitting, menacing, threatening, and directing abuse language towards a sports official. A conviction generally is a Class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or up to 6 months in jail. But a conviction for an offense against a minor is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or up to 1 year in jail.

If enacted, HB 2139 would become effective on July 1, 2023.