

HB 295 -- SCHOOL OR RECREATION ATHLETIC CONTEST OFFENSES

SPONSOR: Barnes

This bill establishes the "Respect the Whistle Act".

A person commits the offense of harassment of a school or recreation athletic contest official if the harassment occurs while the official is actively engaged in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school-sanctioned athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest, or in the immediate vicinity of a school-sanctioned athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest and is based on the official's performance in conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of an athletic contest.

A person who commits the offense of harassment of a school or recreation athletic contest official will be fined no more than \$500, imprisoned for no more than 90 days, or both. In addition, the person will be ordered to perform court-approved community service work and to participate in a court-approved counseling program.

A person commits the offense of entry or remaining on site of a school or recreation athletic contest if the person, without authority, goes into or upon or remains in or upon, or attempts to go into or upon or remain in or upon, any immovable property that is used for any school or recreation athletic contest after having been forbidden to do so by any owner, lessee, or custodian of the property or by any other authorized person. A person who commits this offense will be fined no more than \$500, imprisoned for no more than six months, or both.

This bill is the same as HB 1590 (2024) and similar to HB 103 (2023).