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## DIGEST

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HB 184 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Henry

**Abstract:** Creates the crime of harassment of a school or recreation athletic contest official and provides criminal penalties for commission of the offense.

Proposed law creates the crime of harassment of a school or recreation athletic contest official and defines the crime as the harassment of a school athletic or recreation athletic contest official that occurs under either of the following circumstances and that includes verbal or non-verbal behavior by the offender that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his safety, to feel alarmed, or to suffer emotional distress:

- (1) While the school athletic or recreation athletic contest official is actively engaged in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school-sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest.
- (2) In the immediate vicinity of a school-sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest and is based on the official's performance in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school-sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest.

Proposed law also defines "school athletic contest official" and "recreation athletic contest official" for purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law provides the following penalties for persons who commit the offense:

- (1) A fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.
- (2) Performance of 40 hours of court-approved community service work.
- (3) Mandatory participation in a court-approved counseling program which may include anger management, abusive behavior intervention groups, or any other type of counseling deemed appropriate by the court. Cost of the program shall be borne by the offender.

(Adds R.S. 14:38.4)