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2 An act relating to assault or battery on
3 officials; amending s. 784.081, F.S.; providing
4 enhanced penalties for the offense of assault,
5 battery, aggravated assault, or aggravated
6 battery if the offense is committed upon a
7 sports official; providing an effective date.
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 Section 1. Section 784.081, Florida Statutes, is
12 amended to read:

13 784.081 Assault or battery on specified officials or
14 employees; reclassification of offenses.--

15 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "sports
16 official" means any person who serves as a referee, an umpire,
17 or a linesman, and any person who serves in a similar capacity
18 as a sports official who may be known by another title, which
19 sports official is duly registered by or is a member of a
20 local, state, regional, or national organization that is
21 engaged in part in providing education and training to sports
22 officials.

23 (2) Whenever a person is charged with committing an
24 assault or aggravated assault or a battery or aggravated
25 battery upon any elected official or employee of: a school
26 district; a private school; the Florida School for the Deaf
27 and the Blind; a university developmental research school; a
28 state university or any other entity of the state system of
29 public education, as defined in s. 1000.04; a sports official;
30 an employee or protective investigator of the Department of
31 Children and Family Services; or an employee of a lead

1 community-based provider and its direct service contract
2 providers, when the person committing the offense knows or has
3 reason to know the identity or position or employment of the
4 victim, the offense for which the person is charged shall be
5 reclassified as follows:

6 ~~(a)(1)~~ In the case of aggravated battery, from a
7 felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.

8 ~~(b)(2)~~ In the case of aggravated assault, from a
9 felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.

10 ~~(c)(3)~~ In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of
11 the first degree to a felony of the third degree.

12 ~~(d)(4)~~ In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of
13 the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

14 (3) An assault, aggravated assault, battery, or
15 aggravated battery upon a sports official shall be
16 reclassified pursuant to subsection (2) only if such offense
17 is committed upon the sports official when he or she is
18 actively participating as a sports official in an athletic
19 contest or immediately following such athletic contest.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2004.
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