

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Simon

591-02785-23

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to interference with sporting or
3 entertainment events; creating s. 871.05, F.S.;
4 providing definitions; prohibiting certain actions
5 during covered sporting and entertainment events;
6 providing criminal penalties; prohibiting profiting
7 from violations; providing for seizure and forfeiture
8 of specified assets; providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Section 871.05, Florida Statutes, is created to
13 read:

14 871.05 Interference with a sporting or entertainment
15 event.-

16 (1) As used in this section, the term:

17 (a) "Covered event" means an athletic competition or
18 practice, including one conducted in a public venue or a live
19 artistic, theatrical, or other entertainment performance event.
20 The duration of such event includes the period from the time
21 when a venue is held open to the public for such an event until
22 the end of the athletic competition or performance event.

23 (b) "Covered participant" means an umpire, officiating crew
24 member, player, coach, manager, groundskeeper, or any artistic,
25 theatrical, or other performer or sanctioned participant in a
26 covered event. The term includes event operations and security
27 employees working at a covered event.

28 (c) "Restricted area" means any area designated for use by
29 players, coaches, officials, performers, or other personnel

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30 administering a covered event that is on, or adjacent to, the
31 area of play or performance.

32 (2) A person may not:

33 (a) Intentionally touch or strike a covered participant
34 during a covered event against the will of the covered
35 participant, or intentionally cause bodily harm to a covered
36 participant during a covered event; or

37 (b) Willfully enter or remain in a restricted area during a
38 covered event without being authorized, licensed, or invited to
39 enter or remain in such a restricted area.

40 (3) A person who:

41 (a) Violates subsection (2) commits a misdemeanor of the
42 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine
43 of not more than \$2,500.

44 (b) Solicits another person to violate subsection (2) by
45 offering money or any other thing of value to another to engage
46 in specific conduct that constitutes such a violation commits a
47 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.
48 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

49 (4) A person convicted of a violation of this section may
50 not realize any profit or benefit, directly or indirectly, from
51 committing such a violation. Any profit or benefit payable to or
52 accruing to a person convicted of a violation of this section is
53 subject to seizure and forfeiture as provided in the Florida
54 Contraband Forfeiture Act.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.