

ENROLLED

CS/HB 319

2023 Legislature

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

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

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

871.05 Interference with a sporting or entertainment event.-

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

(a) "Covered event" means an athletic competition or practice, including one conducted in a public venue or a live artistic, theatrical, or other entertainment performance event.

The duration of such event includes the period from the time when a venue is held open to the public for such an event until the end of the athletic competition or performance event.

(b) "Covered participant" means an umpire, officiating crew member, player, coach, manager, groundskeeper, or any artistic, theatrical, or other performer or sanctioned

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26 participant in a covered event. The term includes event
 27 operations and security 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
 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
 38 a covered event without being authorized, licensed, or invited
 39 to 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

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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.