

**One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB657**

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**Chairperson: Senator Carolyn Bosn**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: February 12, 2025**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB657 establishes the Respecting and Ensuring Fairness for Sports Officials Act (REF Act). This bill creates the offense of assault on a sports official. The purpose of this bill is to address the growing issue of violence against referees, umpires, and other officials. An individual who does commit the offense of assaulting a sports official before, during, or following an athletic contest in which the sports official is participating would be guilty of a Class IV felony.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Bob Andersen**