

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2379

1 AN ACT TO LIMIT THE CIVIL LIABILITY OF SPORTS OFFICIALS; AND  
2 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

4 SECTION 1. Sports officials who officiate athletic contests  
5 at any level of competition in this state shall not be liable to  
6 any person or entity in any civil action for injuries or damages  
7 claimed to have arisen by virtue of actions or inactions related  
8 in any manner to officiating duties within the confines of the  
9 athletic facility at which the athletic contest is played.

10 SECTION 2. Sports officials are defined as those individuals  
11 who serve as referees, umpires, linesmen, and those who serve in  
12 similar capacities but may be known by other titles and are duly  
13 registered or members of a local, state, regional or national  
14 organization which is engaged in part in providing education and  
15 training to sports officials.

16 SECTION 3. Nothing in this law shall be deemed to grant the  
17 protection set forth to sports officials who cause injury or  
18 damage to a person or entity by actions or inactions which are  
19 intentional, willful, wanton, reckless, malicious or grossly  
20 negligent.

21 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
22 and after July 1, 1999, and the limitation established by this  
23 section shall apply only to actions the cause of which accrued on  
24 or after July 1, 1999.