



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

H.B. 208 – Interested Party Testimony
House Criminal Justice Committee
May 14, 2020

Chair Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and Members of the Committee:

The Criminal Law and Procedure Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference has reviewed H.B. 208, which provides for mandatory fines for the offense of assault when the victim is a sports official and, in some circumstances, elevates the offense to a felony.

The Judicial Conference generally disfavors sentencing or penalty enhancements based on a special class of victims, in this case those who work or volunteer as “sports officials.” The harm that a particular victim suffers should be dealt with no differently simply because that victim falls into a particular class. Judges believe the law must be applied equally regardless of who the victim is, and will always use their discretion in imposing sentences based on all relevant circumstances surrounding the offense, including, but not limited to, the occupation or volunteer activities of the victim.

Thank you for considering the feedback of Ohio’s judges. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Pfeifer
Executive Director