

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 129

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 129 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires that every student enrolled in grades six through 12 in a public or nonpublic school undergo a physical examination using the “Preparticipation Physical Evaluation” form. The licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant who performs the physical examination will sign the form’s certification statement attesting to the completion of the Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening professional development module developed pursuant to current law. The school will retain the original signed statement to attest to the qualifications of the health care practitioner to perform the physical examination.

Under current law, a student enrolled in grades six through 12, who is on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, is required to have a physical examination using the “Preparticipation Physical Evaluation” form. Current law also specifies that the physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant who conducts the physical is required to complete a Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening professional development module to increase the assessment skills of those health care practitioners. That training module emphasizes the ability to recognize and identify symptoms of cardiac disease and cardiac abnormalities among students.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require that students in grades six through 12 receive a physical examination that includes a cardiac component. The bill, as introduced, was applicable only to students in grade eight; and

(2) change the effective date from the first school year following enactment to immediately; it will first be applicable to the 2023-2024 school year.