

**SENATE, No. 1114**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator JOHN F. MCKEON**  
**District 27 (Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes task force to examine issues and make recommendations concerning youth sports, including abusive coaching, confrontational parents, and bullying of players.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Education Committee with technical review.



1   **AN ACT** establishing a Youth Sports Task Force to examine various  
2       issues associated with youth sports.

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4       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5       *of New Jersey:*

6  
7       1.   a.   There is established a Youth Sports Task Force for the  
8       purpose of examining, evaluating, and making recommendations  
9       regarding youth sports.

10      b.   The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

11      (1) six members, two of whom shall be appointed by the Senate  
12      President, two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
13      General Assembly, and two of whom shall be appointed by the  
14      Governor, who each have a background in, or special knowledge of,  
15      the legal, policy, educational, social, or psychological aspects of  
16      bullying;

17      (2) four members of the public, to be appointed by the  
18      Governor, including: the parent or guardian of a student-athlete who  
19      participates in an interscholastic sports program; the parent or  
20      guardian of an athlete who participates in youth sports events as  
21      defined in section 1 of P.L.2002, c.74 (C.5:17-1); the parent or  
22      guardian of an athlete who participates in youth sports activities  
23      sponsored by a for-profit entity; and a youth who was a victim of  
24      harassment, intimidation, or bullying while participating in youth  
25      sports; and

26      (3) three coaches to be appointed by the Governor, including: a  
27      coach of an interscholastic sports program; a coach of youth sports  
28      events; and a coach of youth sports activities sponsored by a for-  
29      profit entity.

30      c.   The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no  
31      later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The  
32      task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and  
33      shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task  
34      force.

35      d.   Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30  
36      days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership  
37      of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
38      appointments were made.

39      e.   Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,  
40      but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the  
41      performance of their duties as members of the task force within the  
42      limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task  
43      force for its purposes.

44      f.   The Department of Education shall provide stenographic,  
45      clerical, and other administrative assistants, and professional staff  
46      as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force also  
47      shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the  
48      services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal

1 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require  
2 and as may be available for its purposes.

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4 2. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and consider  
5 issues in regard to youth sports including, but not limited to, the  
6 following:

7 (1) protection for parents, guardians, and athletes from  
8 unscrupulous business practices conducted by for-profit entities  
9 sponsoring youth sports activities;

10 (2) financial oversight to strengthen the business practices of  
11 youth sports team organizations, as defined in section 5 of  
12 P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.5), and for-profit entities that sponsor  
13 youth sports;

14 (3) training for coaches to recognize the signs and symptoms of  
15 harassment, intimidation, and bullying;

16 (4) ways to acknowledge and promote youth sports as an  
17 extension of the classroom;

18 (5) developing training workshops for parents and guardians to  
19 recognize the signs and symptoms of harassment, intimidation,  
20 bullying, and abusive coaching, and on proper spectator conduct;  
21 and

22 (6) protection for sports officials from abusive behavior while  
23 engaged in the performance of their duties.

24 b. The task force shall hold at least one public hearing during  
25 the course of its work in order to receive public input on the issues  
26 being studied by the task force.

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28 3. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings and  
29 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant  
30 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one  
31 year after the task force organizes.

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33 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force  
34 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.