

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 167, *approved July 21, 2017*  
Assembly, No. 3944

1 **AN ACT** concerning the use of prescription opioids by students who  
2 participate in sports and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A  
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
9 Commissioner of Health, shall develop within 120 days of the  
10 effective date of this act, an educational fact sheet that provides  
11 information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the  
12 event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is prescribed an opioid  
13 for a sports-related injury.

14 b. A school district or nonpublic school that participates in an  
15 interscholastic sports program or cheerleading program shall  
16 distribute the educational fact sheet annually to the parents or  
17 guardians of student-athletes and cheerleaders and shall obtain a  
18 signed acknowledgment of the receipt of the fact sheet by the  
19 student-athlete or cheerleader and his parent or guardian.

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21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation  
27 with the Commissioner of Health, to develop an educational fact  
28 sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of  
29 opioid drugs in the event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is  
30 prescribed an opioid for a sports-related injury. The bill requires  
31 school districts and nonpublic schools that participate in  
32 interscholastic sports or cheerleading programs to distribute the fact  
33 sheet annually to the parents or guardians of student-athletes and  
34 cheerleaders, and to obtain a signed acknowledgement of the receipt  
35 of the fact sheet by the student and his parent or guardian.

36 It is the sponsor's intent to ensure that young people and their  
37 parents are educated as early as possible about the dangers of opioid  
38 abuse and addiction. It is critical to provide this information to  
39 students who participate in athletics to make certain that, in the  
40 event they are prescribed an opioid for an injury, they will be fully  
41 knowledgeable of the risks of misuse.

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Requires DOE to develop educational fact sheet for distribution to parents of student-athletes and cheerleaders concerning use and misuse of prescription opioids.