

SENATE, No. 2348

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2016

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SYNOPSIS

Includes students who participate in school intramural sports programs in the student-athlete head injury safety program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning student head injuries and amending P.L.2010,
2 c.94.

3

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

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.2) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The Department of Education shall work to develop and
10 implement, by the 2011-2012 school year, an **[interscholastic]**
11 athletic head injury safety training program. The program shall be
12 completed by a school physician, a person who coaches a public
13 school district or nonpublic school interscholastic sport, intramural
14 sport, or cheerleading program, and an athletic trainer involved in a
15 public or nonpublic school interscholastic sports program,
16 intramural sports program, or cheerleading program. The safety
17 training program shall include, but need not be limited to, the
18 following:

19 (1) the recognition of the symptoms of head and neck injuries,
20 concussions, and injuries related to second-impact syndrome; and

21 (2) the appropriate amount of time to delay the return to
22 competition or practice of a student-athlete or cheerleader who has
23 sustained a concussion or other head injury.

24 b. The department shall update the safety training program as
25 necessary to ensure that it reflects the most current information
26 available on the nature, risk, and treatment of sports-related
27 concussions and other head injuries.

28 c. The department shall develop an educational fact sheet that
29 provides information about sports-related concussions and other
30 head injuries. A school district or a nonpublic school that
31 participates in an interscholastic sports program, intramural sports
32 program, or cheerleading program shall distribute the educational
33 fact sheet annually to the parents or guardians of student-athletes
34 and cheerleaders and shall obtain a signed acknowledgment of the
35 receipt of the fact sheet by the student-athlete or cheerleader and his
36 parent or guardian.

37 d. As used in P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.1 et seq.), "student-
38 athlete" means any student enrolled in a public or nonpublic school
39 in this State who is a participant in an interscholastic sports
40 program or intramural sports program organized by the school.

41 (cf: P.L.2011, c.168, s.1)

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43 2. Section 4 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.4) is amended to
44 read as follows:

45 4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports
46 program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or
2 other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall
3 be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A
4 student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or
5 practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading
6 activity until he is evaluated by a physician or other licensed
7 healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of
8 concussions, and receives written clearance from a physician
9 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return
10 to competition or practice.

11 (cf: P.L.2011, c.168, s.3)

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13 3. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of
14 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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19 Under current law, the Department of Education was required to
20 develop and implement, by the 2011-2012 school year, a head
21 injury safety training program on the recognition of the symptoms
22 of head injuries and the appropriate amount of time to delay the
23 return to competition of a student who suffers a head injury. The
24 program must be completed by school physicians, coaches, and
25 athletic trainers involved in public or nonpublic school
26 interscholastic sports programs and cheerleading programs. The
27 law also required school districts to develop a written policy
28 concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related
29 concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes and
30 cheerleaders. Finally, the law provides that students who
31 participate in interscholastic sports programs or cheerleading
32 programs who sustain or are suspected of having sustained a
33 concussion or other head injury while engaged in a sports
34 competition or practice must be immediately removed from the
35 competition or practice and may not return to competition or
36 practice until evaluated and cleared by a physician.

37 This bill amends the law to provide that students participating in
38 intramural sports programs organized by the school will be included
39 in the student-athlete head injury safety program, and that the
40 coaches of intramural sports programs must also complete the
41 safety training program.