

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4679

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Schaer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs Commissioner of Education to develop sensitivity training program for high school athletic directors and coaches of interscholastic sports programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning sensitivity training in Statewide interscholastic  
2 sports programs and supplementing chapter 11 of Title 18A of  
3 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 shall develop an  
9 interscholastic sports sensitivity training program for high school  
10 athletic directors and coaches. In the development of the program,  
11 the commissioner shall consult with the Division on Civil Rights in  
12 the Department of Law and Public Safety. The training program  
13 shall provide information on topics including, but not limited to:

- 14 (1) gender and sexual orientation;  
15 (2) race and ethnicity;  
16 (3) disabilities;  
17 (4) religious tolerance;  
18 (5) unconscious bias; and  
19 (6) diversity and inclusion.

20 The commissioner shall update the training program as necessary  
21 to ensure that it reflects the most current information available to  
22 provide a productive discourse on issues of diversity.

23 b. The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association  
24 shall require each person who coaches a public school district or  
25 nonpublic school interscholastic high school sport, and an athletic  
26 director who oversees a public school district or nonpublic school  
27 interscholastic high school sports program, to complete the training  
28 program established pursuant to subsection a. of this section every  
29 four years.

30 Each newly appointed coach or athletic director shall initially  
31 complete the training program during his first year in that position.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop an  
39 interscholastic sports sensitivity training program for high school  
40 athletic directors and coaches. Under the bill, the training program  
41 is required to provide information on topics including, but not  
42 limited to:

- 43 • gender and sexual orientation;  
44 • race and ethnicity;  
45 • disabilities;  
46 • religious tolerance;  
47 • unconscious bias; and  
48 • diversity and inclusion.

**A4679 WIMBERLY, VAINIERI HUTTLE**

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1       In the development of the program, the commissioner will  
2 consult with the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of Law  
3 and Public Safety.

4       The bill also directs the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic  
5 Association to require each person who coaches a public school  
6 district or nonpublic school interscholastic high school sport, and an  
7 athletic director who oversees a public school district or nonpublic  
8 school interscholastic high school sports program, to complete the  
9 training program every four years. Under the bill, each newly  
10 appointed coach or athletic director must initially complete the  
11 training program during his first year in that position.