

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4679

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 24, 2019

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4679 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop an interscholastic sports sensitivity training program for high school athletic directors, coaches, and sports officials. The training program is required to provide information on topics including, but not limited to:

- gender and sexual orientation;
- race and ethnicity;
- disabilities;
- religious tolerance;
- unconscious bias; and
- diversity and inclusion.

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

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

Finally, the bill provides that when an individual applies to a sports officials' chapter or association, the individual must certify that he has completed the training program. An active sports official must complete the training program every four years.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require that sports officials complete the sensitivity training program to be established under the bill. Under the amendments, when an individual applies to a sports officials' chapter or association, he must certify that he has completed the program. An active sports official must complete the program every four years.