

ASSEMBLY, No. 667

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 37 (Bergen)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to develop registry of high school student-athletes who sustain concussions or other head injuries.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the health of student-athletes and
2 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. The Department of Education shall establish and maintain
9 a central registry of all high school student-athletes who sustain a
10 concussion or other head injury while participating in a Statewide
11 interscholastic sports program, intramural sports program, or
12 cheerleading program. The purpose of the registry shall be to
13 collect data to determine the rates, patterns, and trends of head
14 injuries in order to develop evidence-based injury prevention
15 protocols. In establishing the registry, the department shall ensure
16 that any student identifying information received pursuant to this
17 section is kept confidential.

18 b. A person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school
19 interscholastic sport, intramural sport, or cheerleading program
20 shall immediately notify the athletic director or other person
21 designated by the district or nonpublic school when a student
22 sustains a concussion or other head injury as a result of
23 participating in the sport or cheerleading program.

24 c. Each week, based on the information provided by a coach
25 pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the athletic director or
26 other person designated by the district or nonpublic school shall
27 enter into the department's centralized registry information
28 concerning a student-athlete's concussion or other head injury. The
29 information shall include, but need not be limited to:

- 30 (1) the type of head injury;
31 (2) the sport or program in which the student-athlete was
32 participating when the concussion or head injury was sustained;
33 (3) the specific incident that occurred that resulted in the
34 concussion or other head injury, including the specific phase of the
35 game or cheerleading routine in which the student-athlete was
36 engaged when the concussion or other head injury was sustained;
37 (4) the age of the student-athlete;
38 (5) the average number of days missed from practice or play
39 before the student-athlete was cleared to return to participate in
40 games and practices; and
41 (6) any information received by the school district or nonpublic
42 school concerning medical treatment received by the student-athlete
43 following the injury.

44
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop a centralized registry for high school student-athletes who sustain concussions or other head injuries. The purpose of the registry is to collect data to determine the rates, patterns, and trends of head injuries in order to develop evidence-based injury prevention protocols.

Under the bill, each person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school interscholastic sport, intramural sport, or cheerleading program must immediately notify the athletic director or other person designated by the district or nonpublic school when a student sustains a concussion or other head injury as a result of participating in the sport or cheerleading program.

Each week, based on the information provided by the coach, the athletic director or other person designated by the district or nonpublic school will enter into the department's centralized registry information concerning the student-athlete's concussion or other head injury, including but not limited to:

- the type of head injury;
- the sport or program in which the student-athlete was participating when the concussion or other head injury was sustained;
- the specific incident that occurred that resulted in the concussion or other head injury, including the specific phase of the game or cheerleading routine in which the student-athlete was engaged when the concussion or other head injury was sustained; and
- the average number of days missed from practice or play before the student-athlete was cleared to return to participate in games and practices.

The bill stipulates that, in establishing the registry, the department must ensure that any student identifying information is kept confidential.