

[Second Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 225**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

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**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

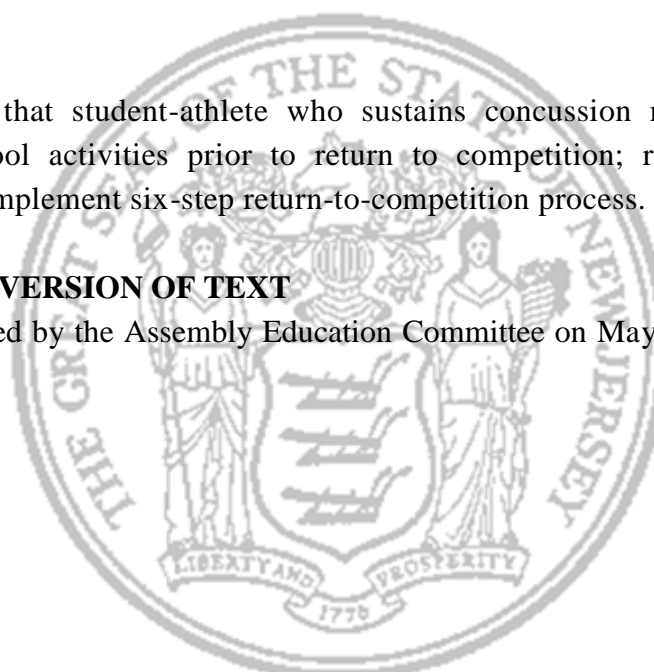
**Senator Pou and Assemblyman McKeon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that student-athlete who sustains concussion must return to regular school activities prior to return to competition; requires school districts to implement six-step return-to-competition process.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on May 12, 2021, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning the safety of certain student-athletes and  
2 amending and supplementing P.L.2010, c.94.

3

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

6

7 1. (New section) Within 180 days of the effective date of  
8 P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
9 the Department of Education shall revise the athletic head injury  
10 safety training program established pursuant to section 2 of  
11 P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.2) to include information on the  
12 graduated, <sup>1</sup>**[five-step]** six-step<sup>1</sup> “Return to Play Progression”  
13 recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and  
14 Prevention. <sup>2</sup>The department shall revise the athletic head injury  
15 safety program established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94  
16 (C.18A:40-41.2) whenever the Centers for Disease Control and  
17 Prevention changes or otherwise updates the “Return to Play  
18 Progression” recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

19

20 2. (New section) <sup>1</sup>**[**Within 180 days of the effective date of  
21 P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)**]**  
22 In the 2021-2022 school year<sup>1</sup>, a school district shall revise its  
23 written policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-  
24 related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes  
25 and cheerleaders established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010, c.94  
26 (C.18A:40-41.3) to include the graduated, <sup>1</sup>**[five-step]** six-step<sup>1</sup>  
27 “Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by the  
28 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <sup>2</sup>A school district shall  
29 revise its written policy established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010,  
30 c.94 (C.18A:40-41.3) whenever the Centers for Disease Control and  
31 Prevention changes or otherwise updates the “Return to Play  
32 Progression” recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

33

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

36 4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports  
37 program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and  
38 who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or  
39 other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall  
40 be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A  
41 student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or  
42 practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading  
43 activity until:

44 a. <sup>2</sup>**[**he**]** the student-athlete or cheerleader<sup>2</sup> is evaluated by a

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 12, 2021.

1 physician or other licensed healthcare provider trained in the  
2 evaluation and management of concussions, and receives written  
3 clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and  
4 management of concussions to return to competition or practice;  
5 and

6 b. <sup>2</sup>~~he~~ the student-athlete or cheerleader<sup>2</sup> returns to regular  
7 school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the  
8 injury when conducting those activities.

9 The return of a student-athlete or cheerleader to competition or  
10 practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, <sup>1</sup>~~five-step~~ six-  
11 step<sup>1</sup> “Return to Play Progression” recommendations <sup>2</sup>and any  
12 subsequent changes or other updates to those recommendations as<sup>2</sup>  
13 developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

14 (cf: P.L.2017, c.105, s.2)

15

16 4. This act shall take effect immediately.