

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2744

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

**District 15 (Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman ELEASE EVANS**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

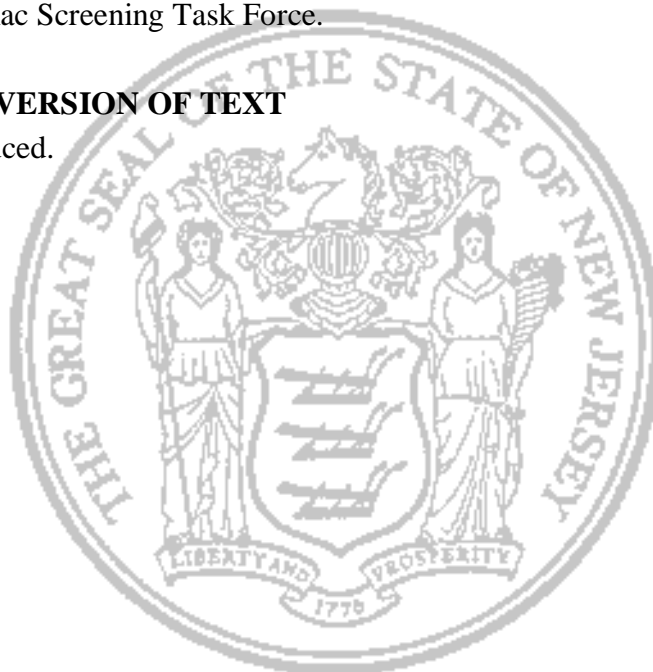
**Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblymen Caputo, Wolfe, Assemblywoman Angelini, Assemblyman Chivukula, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywomen Wagner and Jasey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DOE to develop and distribute information regarding hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and expands role and membership of New Jersey Student Athlete Cardiac Screening Task Force.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2010)**

1 AN ACT concerning certain health information for public school  
2 athletics, amending P.L.2009, c.260 and P.L.2007, c.125, and  
3 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
4 Statutes.

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

8  
9 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.260 is amended to read as follows:

10 2. a. There is established the New Jersey Student Athlete  
11 Cardiac Screening Task Force in the Department of Health and  
12 Senior Services.

13 The purpose of the task force shall be to study and evaluate, and  
14 develop recommendations relating to, specific actionable measures  
15 to enhance screening of student athletes for hypertrophic  
16 cardiomyopathy and other cardiac conditions that will help identify  
17 student athletes who are at risk for sudden cardiac death. The task  
18 force shall also review the annual athletic pre-participation physical  
19 examination form developed by the Commissioner of Education in  
20 accordance with State Board of Education regulations and develop  
21 recommendations for revisions to the form.

22 b. The task force shall consist of **[eight]** 11 members as  
23 follows:

24 (1) the Commissioners of Health and Senior Services and  
25 Education or their designees, who shall serve ex officio; **[and]**

26 (2) six members, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner  
27 of Health and Senior Services no later than the 60th day after the  
28 effective date of **[this act]** P.L.2009, c.260, as follows: one person  
29 who represents the American Heart Association; one person who  
30 represents the American Academy of Pediatrics, New Jersey  
31 Chapter; one person who represents the American College of  
32 Cardiology; one person who represents the New Jersey State School  
33 Nurses Association; one person who represents the New Jersey  
34 State Interscholastic Athletic Association and one person who  
35 represents the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians; and

36 (3) three members, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner  
37 of Health and Senior Services no later than the 60th day after the  
38 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this  
39 bill), from among the following persons or organizations: the  
40 Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association; the coach of a high  
41 school athletic team; the parent or guardian of a child who has been  
42 diagnosed with, or has died from, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy,  
43 and the Athletic Trainers' Society of New Jersey.

44 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in  
45 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

**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 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable  
2 following the appointment of its members pursuant to P.L.2009,  
3 c.260 and shall hold its initial meeting no later than the 120th day  
4 after the effective date of **[this act]** P.L.2009, c.260. The task force  
5 shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the  
6 members, and the chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need  
7 not be a member of the task force.

8 d. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
9 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
10 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
11 to the task force.

12 e. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
13 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or  
14 municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it  
15 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

16 f. The task force may meet and hold hearings as it deems  
17 appropriate.

18 g. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall provide  
19 staff support to the task force.

20 (cf: P.L.2009, c.260, s.2)

21  
22 2. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
25 Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, the American Heart  
26 Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, shall  
27 develop **[a pamphlet that provides]** an awareness program to  
28 provide information about sudden cardiac death and hypertrophic  
29 cardiomyopathy to [the] students, parents or guardians of [student  
30 athletes] students, and coaches. The **[pamphlet]** program shall  
31 include **[an explanation of]** information about sudden cardiac  
32 death, its incidence among student athletes, a description of early  
33 warning signs, **[and]** an overview of the options that are privately  
34 available to screen for cardiac conditions that may lead to sudden  
35 cardiac death, including a statement about the limitations of these  
36 options, information on the causes and symptoms of hypertrophic  
37 cardiomyopathy, a description of examination options available to  
38 diagnose hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and available treatment  
39 options.

40 b. The commissioner shall distribute the **[pamphlet]**  
41 information, at no charge, to all school districts in the State. The  
42 commissioner shall update the **[pamphlet]** information as  
43 necessary, and shall make **[additional copies]** the information  
44 available to nonpublic schools upon request.

45 c. In the **[2007-2008]** first school year beginning after the  
46 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this  
47 bill) and in each school year thereafter, each school district shall

1 distribute the **[pamphlet]** information to **[the]** students, parents or  
2 guardians of students **[participating in school sports]**, and coaches.  
3 (cf: P.L.2007, c.125, s.1)

4  
5 3. (New section) In each school year, prior to the first practice  
6 or competition of a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural  
7 athletic team or squad, the coach shall inform all students  
8 participating on the athletic team or squad of options that are  
9 privately available for screening for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

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11 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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16 This bill requires that the Department of Education, in  
17 consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, the  
18 American Heart Association, and the American Academy of  
19 Pediatrics, develop a program that provides information regarding  
20 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Under current law, these entities  
21 collaborate to develop a pamphlet related to sudden cardiac death  
22 among student athletes. The Commissioner of Education distributes  
23 the pamphlet to all school districts, and, upon request, nonpublic  
24 schools. The school districts then disseminate the information to  
25 parents or guardians of student athletes. Under this bill, these  
26 entities will add information related specifically to hypertrophic  
27 cardiomyopathy to the information. The bill requires that school  
28 districts provide the information to all students, their parents or  
29 guardians, and coaches. Coaches would also be required to provide  
30 students participating in a sport with information on options that are  
31 privately available for screening for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

32 The bill also expands the role and membership of the New Jersey  
33 Student Athlete Cardiac Screening Task Force. Under current law,  
34 the task force, which was established pursuant to P.L.2009, c.260, is  
35 composed of eight members, including the Commissioners of  
36 Health and Senior Services and Education, five members  
37 representing various medical associations, and one person  
38 representing the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic  
39 Association; these six members are appointed by the Commissioner  
40 of Health and Senior Services. The purpose of the task force is to  
41 study and evaluate, and make recommendations relating to,  
42 measures that may be taken to enhance screening of student athletes  
43 for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and other cardiac conditions.  
44 Under this bill, the task force would be expanded to include three  
45 additional members. The Commissioner of Health and Senior  
46 Services will select the additional members from among the  
47 following persons or organizations: the Hypertrophic  
48 Cardiomyopathy Association, the coach of a high school athletic

1 team, the parent or guardian of a child who has been diagnosed with  
2 or died from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and the Athletic  
3 Trainers' Society of New Jersey. The task force will also review  
4 the Department of Education's annual athletic pre-participation  
5 physical examination form and develop recommendations for  
6 revisions to the form.