

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3799

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 23, 2016

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**SYNOPSIS**

Includes students who participate in school intramural sports programs in the student-athlete head injury safety program.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning student head injuries and amending P.L.2010,  
2 c.94.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.2) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The Department of Education shall work to develop and  
10 implement, by the 2011-2012 school year, an **[interscholastic]**  
11 athletic head injury safety training program. The program shall be  
12 completed by a school physician, a person who coaches a public  
13 school district or nonpublic school interscholastic sport, intramural  
14 sport, or cheerleading program, and an athletic trainer involved in a  
15 public or nonpublic school interscholastic sports program,  
16 intramural sports program, or cheerleading program. The safety  
17 training program shall include, but need not be limited to, the  
18 following:

19 (1) the recognition of the symptoms of head and neck injuries,  
20 concussions, and injuries related to second-impact syndrome; and

21 (2) the appropriate amount of time to delay the return to  
22 competition or practice of a student-athlete or cheerleader who has  
23 sustained a concussion or other head injury.

24 b. The department shall update the safety training program as  
25 necessary to ensure that it reflects the most current information  
26 available on the nature, risk, and treatment of sports-related  
27 concussions and other head injuries.

28 c. The department shall develop an educational fact sheet that  
29 provides information about sports-related concussions and other  
30 head injuries. A school district or a nonpublic school that  
31 participates in an interscholastic sports program, intramural sports  
32 program, or cheerleading program shall distribute the educational  
33 fact sheet annually to the parents or guardians of student-athletes  
34 and cheerleaders and shall obtain a signed acknowledgment of the  
35 receipt of the fact sheet by the student-athlete or cheerleader and his  
36 parent or guardian.

37 d. As used in P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.1 et seq.), "student-  
38 athlete" means any student enrolled in a public or nonpublic school  
39 in this State who is a participant in an interscholastic sports  
40 program or intramural sports program organized by the school.

41 (cf: P.L.2011, c.168, s.1)

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

**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       4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports  
2 program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and  
3 who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or  
4 other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall  
5 be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A  
6 student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or  
7 practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading  
8 activity until he is evaluated by a physician or other licensed  
9 healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of  
10 concussions, and receives written clearance from a physician  
11 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return  
12 to competition or practice.  
13 (cf: P.L.2011, c.168, s.3)

14  
15       3. This act shall take effect on the 90<sup>th</sup> day after the date of  
16 enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

21       Under current law, the Department of Education was required to  
22 develop and implement, by the 2011-2012 school year, a head  
23 injury safety training program on the recognition of the symptoms  
24 of head injuries and the appropriate amount of time to delay the  
25 return to competition of a student who suffers a head injury. The  
26 program must be completed by school physicians, coaches, and  
27 athletic trainers involved in public or nonpublic school  
28 interscholastic sports programs and cheerleading programs. The  
29 law also required school districts to develop a written policy  
30 concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related  
31 concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes and  
32 cheerleaders. Finally, the law provides that students who  
33 participate in interscholastic sports programs or cheerleading  
34 programs who sustain or are suspected of having sustained a  
35 concussion or other head injury while engaged in a sports  
36 competition or practice must be immediately removed from the  
37 competition or practice and may not return to competition or  
38 practice until evaluated and cleared by a physician.

39       This bill amends the law to provide that students participating in  
40 intramural sports programs organized by the school will be included  
41 in the student-athlete head injury safety program, and that the  
42 coaches of intramural sports programs must also complete the  
43 safety training program.