

ASSEMBLY, No. 4755

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2018)

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, five-step “Return to Play Progression” recommendations
13 developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

14
15 2. (New section) Within 180 days of the effective date of
16 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a
17 school district shall revise its written policy concerning the
18 prevention and treatment of sports-related concussions and other
19 head injuries among student-athletes and cheerleaders established
20 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.3) to include
21 the graduated, five-step “Return to Play Progression”
22 recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and
23 Prevention.

24
25 3. Section 4 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.4) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports
28 program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and
29 who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or
30 other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall
31 be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A
32 student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or
33 practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading
34 activity until:

35 a. he is evaluated by a physician or other licensed healthcare
36 provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions,
37 and receives written clearance from a physician trained in the
38 evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition
39 or practice; and

40 b. he returns to regular school activities and is no longer
41 experiencing symptoms of the injury when conducting those
42 activities.

43 The return of a student-athlete or cheerleader to competition or
44 practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, five-step

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 “Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by the
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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8 STATEMENT

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10 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed
11 recommendations concerning a student-athlete’s return to sports and
12 activities following a concussion or other head injury. According to
13 the centers, a student-athlete who sustains a concussion or other
14 head injury should not return to competition or practice until he first
15 returns to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing
16 symptoms of the injury when conducting those activities. Once
17 those conditions are met, the centers recommend that the student-
18 athlete engage in a graduated, five-step “Return-to-Play-
19 Progression” to ensure the student-athlete’s safety and well-being.

20 The centers’ “Return-to-Play-Progression” recommendations
21 address time frames for participating in: (1) light aerobic activity;
22 (2) moderate activity; (3) heavy, non-contact activity; (4) practice
23 and full contact; and (5) competition.

24 This bill provides that a student-athlete or cheerleader who
25 sustains a concussion or other head injury is ineligible to return to
26 competition or practice until he returns to regular school activities
27 and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the injury when
28 conducting those activities. Under the bill, the return of the student-
29 athlete or cheerleader must be in accordance with the centers’
30 graduated, five-step “Return to Play Progression”
31 recommendations.

32 The bill also requires the Department of Education to revise its
33 athletic head injury safety training program to include information
34 on the centers’ graduated, five-step “Return to Play Progression”
35 recommendations.

36 The bill also requires a school district to revise its written policy
37 concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related
38 concussions and other head injuries to include the centers’
39 graduated, five-step “Return to Play Progression”
40 recommendations.