

SENATE, No. 2442

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 5, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

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: 6/21/2019)

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

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

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7 1. (New section) Within 180 days of the effective date of P.L.,
8 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
9 Department of Education shall revise the athletic head injury safety
10 training program established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94
11 (C.18A:40-41.2) to include information on the graduated, five-step
12 “Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by the
13 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

23
24 3. Section 4 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.4) is amended to
25 read as follows:

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

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

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

42 The return of a student-athlete or cheerleader to competition or
43 practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, five-step
44 “Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by the
45 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

16 The centers' "Return-to-Play-Progression" recommendations
17 address time frames for participating in: (1) light aerobic activity;
18 (2) moderate activity; (3) heavy, non-contact activity; (4) practice
19 and full contact; and (5) competition.

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

28 The bill also requires the Department of Education to revise its
29 athletic head injury safety training program to include information
30 on the centers' graduated, five-step "Return to Play Progression"
31 recommendations.

32 The bill also requires a school district to revise its written policy
33 concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related
34 concussions and other head injuries to include the centers'
35 graduated, five-step "Return to Play Progression"
36 recommendations.