

SENATE, No. 2875

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 27, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires student-athletes to submit evidence to school of screening for sickle cell trait.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the health of student-athletes and
2 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. The board of education of a public school district and the
9 governing board or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school
10 shall require that prior to the participation of any student enrolled in
11 grades six to 12 on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural
12 athletic team or squad, the student shall submit to the school nurse
13 and, if applicable, the school athletic trainer evidence that the
14 student has been screened for sickle cell trait. The school nurse and
15 school athletic trainer shall maintain the documentation submitted
16 by a student throughout the student's enrollment in the school
17 district or nonpublic school.

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
20 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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25 Under this bill, the board of education of a public school district
26 and the governing board or chief school administrator of a
27 nonpublic school must require that prior to the participation of any
28 student enrolled in grades six to 12 on a school-sponsored
29 interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, the student
30 must submit to the school nurse and, if applicable, the school
31 athletic trainer evidence that the student has been screened for
32 sickle cell trait. The school nurse and school athletic trainer are
33 required to maintain the submitted documentation throughout the
34 student's enrollment in the school district or nonpublic school.

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36 Sickle cell trait is a genetic condition involving red blood cells.
37 Unlike sickle cell disease, sickle cell trait individuals do not
38 typically experience any symptoms and may not know that they
39 have the trait. Sickle cell trait may contribute to death in athletes,
40 as there is evidence that persons with sickle cell trait have increased
41 susceptibility to exertional rhabdomyolysis, with the potential for
42 renal failure and death. People with sickle cell trait should be
43 counseled about appropriate hydration and acclimatization to reduce
risks.