

SENATE, No. 3518

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cunningham, Gill, Singleton, Codey, Brown and T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Directs Commissioner of Education to develop sensitivity training program for high school athletic directors, coaches, and sports officials of interscholastic athletic sports programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning sensitivity training in Statewide interscholastic
2 sports programs and supplementing chapter 11 of Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey 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. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop an
9 interscholastic sports sensitivity training program for high school
10 athletic directors, coaches, and sports officials. In the development
11 of the program, the commissioner shall consult with the Division on
12 Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety. The
13 training program shall provide information on topics including, but
14 not limited to:

- 15 (1) gender and sexual orientation;
16 (2) race and ethnicity;
17 (3) disabilities;
18 (4) religious tolerance;
19 (5) unconscious bias; and
20 (6) diversity and inclusion.

21 The commissioner shall update the training program as necessary
22 to ensure that it reflects the most current information available to
23 provide a productive discourse on issues of diversity.

24 b. The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
25 shall require each person who coaches a public school district or
26 nonpublic school interscholastic high school sport, and an athletic
27 director who oversees a public school district or nonpublic school
28 interscholastic high school sports program, to complete the training
29 program established pursuant to subsection a. of this section every
30 four years.

31 Each newly appointed coach or athletic director shall initially
32 complete the training program during his first year in that position.

33 c. When an individual applies to a sports officials' chapter or
34 association, the individual shall certify that he has completed the
35 training program established pursuant to subsection a. of this
36 section. An active sports official shall complete the training
37 program every four years.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop an
45 interscholastic sports sensitivity training program for high school
46 athletic directors, coaches, and sports officials. The training
47 program is required to provide information on topics including, but
48 not limited to:

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- 1 • gender and sexual orientation;
- 2 • race and ethnicity;
- 3 • disabilities;
- 4 • religious tolerance;
- 5 • unconscious bias; and
- 6 • diversity and inclusion.

7 In the development of the program, the commissioner will
8 consult with the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of Law
9 and Public Safety.

10 The bill also directs the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic
11 Association to require each person who coaches a public school
12 district or nonpublic school interscholastic high school sport, and an
13 athletic director who oversees a public school district or nonpublic
14 school interscholastic high school sports program, to complete the
15 training program every four years. Under the bill, each newly
16 appointed coach or athletic director must initially complete the
17 training program during his first year in that position.

18 Finally, the bill provides that when an individual applies to a sports
19 officials' chapter or association, the individual must certify that he has
20 completed the training program. An active sports official must
21 complete the training program every four years.