

# ASSEMBLY, No. 679

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**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**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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  
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.

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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.

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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  
45 “Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by the

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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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4 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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