

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 225

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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 six-step return-to-competition process.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on January 14, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2021)

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, ¹**["five-step"]** six-step¹ "Return to Play Progression"
 13 recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and
 14 Prevention.

15
 16 2. (New section) ¹**["Within 180 days of the effective date of**
 17 **P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)"]**
 18 In the 2021-2022 school year¹, a school district shall revise its
 19 written policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-
 20 related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes
 21 and cheerleaders established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010, c.94
 22 (C.18A:40-41.3) to include the graduated, ¹**["five-step"]** six-step¹
 23 "Return to Play Progression" recommendations developed by the
 24 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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

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

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

44 The return of a student-athlete or cheerleader to competition or
 45 practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, ¹**["five-step"]** six-

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

1 step¹ “Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by
2 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

4

5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.