

**SENATE, No. 2518**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 4, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PAUL A. SARLO**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Waives physical examination requirement for certain student-athletes who participate in school-sponsored athletic activities during 2020-2021 school year.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/11/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning physical examination requirements for certain  
2 student-athletes during the 2020-2021 school year.

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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. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
8 during the 2020-2021 school year, the Commissioner of Education  
9 shall waive the requirement to complete an annual preparticipation  
10 physical examination, as required under section 2 of P.L.2013, c.71  
11 (C.18A:40-41.7), for any student-athlete who completed:

12 (1) a physical examination in accordance with section 2 of  
13 P.L.2013, c.71 (C.18A:40-41.7) during the 2019-2020 school year;  
14 or

15 (2) a physical examination that allowed the student to  
16 participate on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural  
17 athletic team or squad during the 2019-2020 school year.

18 b. (1) A student-athlete who receives a waiver under  
19 subsection a. of this section, and participates on a school-sponsored  
20 interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad during the 2020-  
21 2021 school year, shall provide the health history update  
22 questionnaire required under subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2013,  
23 c.71 (C.18A:40-41.7) before the first day of official practice of an  
24 athletic season in which the student-athlete participates.

25 (2) If the student-athlete answers in the affirmative to any  
26 question included in the health history update questionnaire, then  
27 the student-athlete shall not participate on the school-sponsored  
28 interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad until he is  
29 further evaluated by the school physician, or if a school physician is  
30 not available, any other licensed physician.

31 c. As used in this section, "student-athlete" means a student  
32 enrolled in grades six to 12 who participates on a school-sponsored  
33 interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad and includes  
34 transfer students.

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill waives the annual physical examination requirement for  
42 certain student-athletes who participate in school-sponsored athletic  
43 activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

44 Under current law, before a student enrolled in grades six  
45 through 12 may participate in a school-sponsored interscholastic or  
46 intramural athletic activity, the student-athlete is required to receive  
47 a physical examination within 365 days before the first day of  
48 official practice of the athletic season. When a student-athlete's

1 physical examination was completed more than 90 days before the  
2 first day of official practice, current law also requires the student-  
3 athlete to provide a health history update questionnaire, which is  
4 completed by the student's parent or guardian and reviewed by the  
5 school nurse and athletic trainer.

6 Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the State's health care  
7 system, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education to waive  
8 the annual preparticipation physical examination requirement  
9 during the 2020-2021 school year for any student-athlete who  
10 completed: (1) a preparticipation physical examination during the  
11 2019-2020 school year; or (2) a preparticipation physical  
12 examination that allowed the student to participate in a school-  
13 sponsored athletic activity during the 2019-2020 school year.

14 The bill also provides that if a student-athlete receives the  
15 physical examination waiver and participates in a school-sponsored  
16 athletic activity during the 2020-2021 school year, then the student-  
17 athlete would be required to provide a health history update  
18 questionnaire before the first day of official practice of each athletic  
19 season in which the student-athlete participates. If the student-  
20 athlete answers in the affirmative to any question included in the  
21 health history update questionnaire, then the student-athlete may  
22 not participate in the school-sponsored athletic activity until he is  
23 further evaluated by the school physician, or if a school physician is  
24 not available, any other licensed physician.