

[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:**

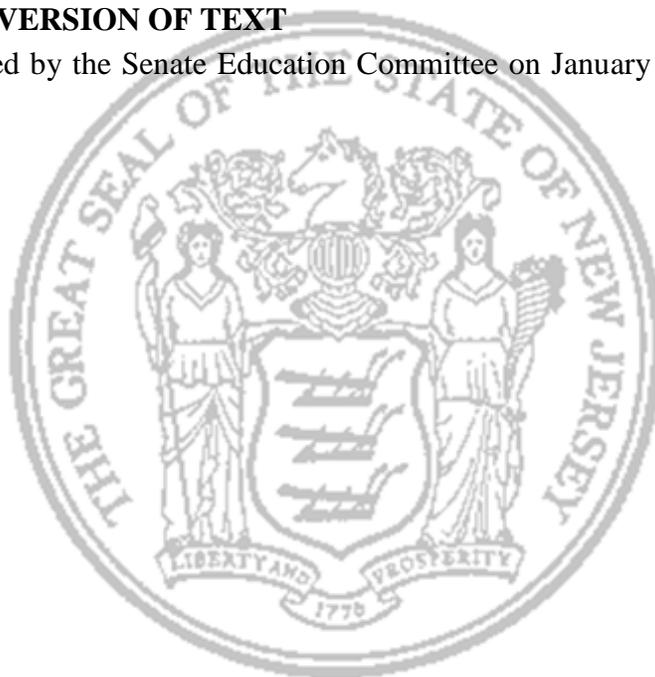
**Senator Pou**

**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, <sup>1</sup>**【five-step】** six-step<sup>1</sup> “Return to Play Progression”  
13 recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and  
14 Prevention.

15

16 2. (New section) <sup>1</sup>**【**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 year<sup>1</sup>, 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, <sup>1</sup>**【five-step】** six-step<sup>1</sup>  
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, <sup>1</sup>**【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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

- 1 step<sup>1</sup> “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.