

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to youth athletes; amending ss.  
3           943.0438 and 1006.20, F.S.; requiring an independent  
4           sanctioning authority for youth athletic teams and the  
5           Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt  
6           guidelines, bylaws, and policies relating to the  
7           nature and risk of concussion and head injury in youth  
8           athletes; requiring informed consent for participation  
9           in practice or competition; requiring removal from  
10          practice or competition under certain circumstances  
11          and written medical clearance to return; requiring the  
12          Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt  
13          bylaws for the establishment and duties of a sports  
14          medicine advisory committee; specifying membership;  
15          providing an effective date.

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17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19           Section 1. Paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) are added to  
20           subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, to read:

21           943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning  
22           authorities.—

23           (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

24           (e) Adopt guidelines to educate athletic coaches,  
25           officials, administrators, and youth athletes and their parents  
26           or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head  
27           injury.

28           (f) Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or

29 guardian of a youth who is participating in athletic competition  
 30 or who is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an  
 31 informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion  
 32 and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after  
 33 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in  
 34 athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout,  
 35 workout, or other physical activity associated with the youth's  
 36 candidacy for an athletic team.

37 (g) Adopt bylaws or policies that require each youth  
 38 athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head  
 39 injury in a practice or competition to be immediately removed  
 40 from the activity. A youth athlete who has been removed from an  
 41 activity may not return to practice or competition until the  
 42 youth submits to the athletic coach a written medical clearance  
 43 to return stating that the youth athlete no longer exhibits  
 44 signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or  
 45 other head injury. Medical clearance must be authorized by the  
 46 appropriate health care practitioner trained in the diagnosis,  
 47 evaluation, and management of concussions as defined by the  
 48 Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Florida High School  
 49 Athletic Association.

50 Section 2. Paragraphs (e), (f), (g), and (h) are added to  
 51 subsection (2) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, to read:

52 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

53 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS, POLICIES, OR GUIDELINES.—

54 (e) The organization shall adopt guidelines to educate  
 55 athletic coaches, officials, administrators, and student  
 56 athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion

57 | and head injury.

58 |       (f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that  
59 | require the parent of a student who is participating in  
60 | interscholastic athletic competition or who is a candidate for  
61 | an interscholastic athletic team to sign and return an informed  
62 | consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head  
63 | injury, including the risk of continuing to play after  
64 | concussion or head injury, each year before participating in  
65 | interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any  
66 | practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated  
67 | with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic  
68 | team.

69 |       (g) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that  
70 | require each student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a  
71 | concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be  
72 | immediately removed from the activity. A student athlete who has  
73 | been removed from an activity may not return to practice or  
74 | competition until the student submits to the school a written  
75 | medical clearance to return stating that the student athlete no  
76 | longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a  
77 | concussion or other head injury. Medical clearance must be  
78 | authorized by the appropriate health care practitioner trained  
79 | in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of concussions as  
80 | defined by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Florida  
81 | High School Athletic Association.

82 |       (h) The organization shall adopt bylaws for the  
83 | establishment and duties of a sports medicine advisory committee  
84 | composed of the following members:

- 85        1. Eight physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter  
86 459 with at least one member licensed under chapter 459.
- 87        2. One chiropractor licensed under chapter 460.
- 88        3. One podiatrist licensed under chapter 461.
- 89        4. One dentist licensed under chapter 466.
- 90        5. Three athletic trainers licensed under part XIII of  
91 chapter 468.
- 92        6. One member who is a current or retired head coach of a  
93 high school in the state.
- 94        Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.