

By Senator Montford

6-00521-12

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to youth athletes; amending ss.  
3       943.0438 and 1006.20, F.S.; requiring that an  
4       independent sanctioning authority for youth athletic  
5       teams and the Florida High School Athletic Association  
6       adopt guidelines, bylaws, and policies relating to the  
7       nature and risk of exertional heat stroke and heat-  
8       related injury in youth athletes; requiring that a  
9       parent or guardian of a youth who participates in an  
10      athletic competition or who is a candidate for an  
11      athletic team sign and return an informed-consent form  
12      before the youth athlete participates in an athletic  
13      competition or engages in any practice, tryout,  
14      workout, or other physical activity; requiring that  
15      any youth athlete who is suspected of suffering from  
16      an exertional heat stroke or heat-related injury  
17      during a practice or competition be removed from the  
18      practice or competition; prohibiting a youth athlete  
19      who has suffered from an exertional heat stroke or  
20      heat-related injury from returning to the practice or  
21      competition until the youth athlete receives written  
22      medical clearance from a physician; authorizing the  
23      physician to delegate the performance of medical acts  
24      to certain licensed or certified health care providers  
25      under certain circumstances; providing an effective  
26      date.

27  
28   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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30 Section 1. Paragraphs (e) and (f) are added to subsection  
31 (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, to read:

32 943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning  
33 authorities.—

34 (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

35 (e) Adopt guidelines informing athletic coaches, officials,  
36 administrators, and youth athletes and their parents or  
37 guardians of the nature and risk of exertional heat stroke (EHS)  
38 and heat-related injury.

39 (f) Adopt bylaws or policies requiring:

40 1. The parent or guardian of a youth who participates in an  
41 athletic competition or who is a candidate for an athletic team  
42 to sign and return an informed-consent form each year before the  
43 youth athlete participates in an athletic competition or engages  
44 in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity  
45 associated with the youth's candidacy for an athletic team. The  
46 form must explain the nature and risk of EHS and heat-related  
47 injury, including the risk of continuing to play after suffering  
48 from an EHS or heat-related injury.

49 2. The removal of any youth athlete who is suspected of  
50 suffering from an EHS or heat-related injury during a practice  
51 or competition.

52 a. A youth athlete who has been removed from a practice or  
53 competition may not return to the practice or competition until  
54 the youth receives written medical clearance from a physician  
55 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 which states that the  
56 youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors  
57 consistent with an EHS or heat-related injury.

58 b. Before issuing a written medical clearance to return to

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59 the practice or competition, a physician may delegate the  
60 performance of medical acts to a health care provider licensed  
61 or certified under s. 458.347, s. 459.022, s. 464.012, or s.  
62 468.707 with whom the physician maintains a formal supervisory  
63 relationship or an established written protocol that identifies  
64 the medical acts or evaluations to be performed and the  
65 conditions for their performance and that attests to proficiency  
66 in the evaluation and management of an EHS or heat-related  
67 injury.

68 Section 2. Paragraphs (e) and (f) are added to subsection  
69 (2) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, to read:

70 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

71 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

72 (e) The organization shall adopt guidelines informing  
73 athletic coaches, officials, administrators, and youth athletes  
74 and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of  
75 exertional heat stroke (EHS) and heat-related injury.

76 (f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies  
77 requiring:

78 1. The parent or guardian of a youth who participates in an  
79 athletic competition or who is a candidate for an athletic team  
80 to sign and return an informed-consent form each year before the  
81 youth athlete participates in an athletic competition or engages  
82 in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity  
83 associated with the youth's candidacy for an athletic team. The  
84 form must explain the nature and risk of EHS and heat-related  
85 injury, including the risk of continuing to play after suffering  
86 from an EHS or heat-related injury.

87 2. The removal of any youth athlete who is suspected of

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88 suffering from an EHS or heat-related injury during a practice  
89 or competition.

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93 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 which states that the  
94 youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors  
95 consistent with an EHS or heat-related injury.

96 b. Before issuing a written medical clearance to return to  
97 the practice or competition, a physician may delegate the  
98 performance of medical acts to a health care provider licensed  
99 or certified under s. 458.347, s. 459.022, s. 464.012, or s.  
100 468.707 with whom the physician maintains a formal supervisory  
101 relationship or an established written protocol that identifies  
102 the medical acts or evaluations to be performed and the  
103 conditions for their performance and that attests to proficiency  
104 in the evaluation and management of an EHS or heat-related  
105 injury.

106 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.