

By the Committee on Colleges & Universities and
Representative Barreiro

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to postsecondary education;
3 creating the "Ramiro 'Toti' Mendez Act";
4 requiring community colleges, colleges, and
5 universities to require complete physical
6 assessments of all students who participate in
7 intercollegiate athletics; providing
8 requirements for such assessments; providing an
9 exception; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Physical assessments for college
14 athletes.--15 (1) This section may be cited as the "Ramiro 'Toti'
16 Mendez Act."17 (2) Each community college, college, and university in
18 this state must require each student who participates in
19 intercollegiate athletics to have a complete physical
20 assessment before the student is allowed to participate in the
21 sport. The assessment must be performed by a physician
22 licensed under chapter 458, Florida Statutes, or chapter 459,
23 Florida Statutes, and must include a complete cardiovascular
24 assessment, including, but not limited to, an
25 electrocardiogram (EKG).26 (3) The electrocardiogram performed under subsection
27 (2) must be analyzed by a person who is licensed or trained as
28 a specialist in EKG analysis.29 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2),
30 a student may participate in intercollegiate athletics if the
31 student, or the student's parent if the student is under 18

1 years of age, objects in writing to the student undergoing a
2 complete physical or cardiovascular assessment because such
3 assessment is contrary to his or her religious tenets or
4 practices. A student who participates without the required
5 physical or cardiovascular assessment pursuant to this
6 subsection shall not have a cause of action against any person
7 or entity for any injury or other damages suffered by such
8 student and arising out of the student's participation unless
9 the injury is caused by gross negligence, recklessness, or
10 intentional misconduct.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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