

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

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) are added to
 16 subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, to read:

17 943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning
 18 authorities.—

19 (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

20 (e) Adopt guidelines to educate athletic coaches,
 21 officials, administrators, youth athletes, and their parents or
 22 guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury.

23 (f) Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or
 24 guardian of a youth participating in athletic competition or who
 25 is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an
 26 informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion
 27 and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after
 28 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in

29 athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout,
 30 workout, or other physical activity associated with the
 31 student's candidacy for an athletic team.

32 (g) Adopt bylaws or policies that require each youth
 33 athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head
 34 injury in a practice or competition to be removed from practice
 35 or competition at that time. A youth athlete who has been
 36 removed from practice or competition may not return to practice
 37 or competition until the youth receives written clearance to
 38 return from a physician licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459,
 39 or chapter 460, based upon the Acute Concussion Evaluation
 40 (ACE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National
 41 Center for Injury Prevention and Control "Heads Up" Program.
 42 Prior to issuing a written clearance to play, a physician may:

43 1. Delegate the performance of medical acts to a health
 44 care provider licensed or certified under s. 458.347, s.
 45 459.022, s. 464.012, or s. 468.707 with whom the physician
 46 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or an established
 47 written protocol that identifies the medical acts or evaluations
 48 to be performed and conditions for their performance and that
 49 attests to proficiency in the evaluation and management of
 50 concussions.

51 2. Consult with, or utilize testing and evaluation of
 52 cognitive functions performed by, a neuropsychologist licensed
 53 under chapter 490.

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

56 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.-

57 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

58 (e) The organization shall adopt guidelines to educate
59 athletic coaches, officials, administrators, student athletes,
60 and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion and head
61 injury.

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

73 (g) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that
74 require each student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a
75 concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be
76 removed from practice or competition at that time. A student
77 athlete who has been removed from practice or competition may
78 not return to practice or competition until the student receives
79 written clearance to return from a physician licensed under
80 chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 460, based upon the Acute
81 Concussion Evaluation (ACE), Centers for Disease Control and
82 Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
83 "Heads Up" Program. Prior to issuing a written clearance to
84 return to play, a physician may:

CS/CS/HB 301

2011

85 1. Delegate the performance of medical acts to a health
86 care practitioner licensed or certified under s. 458.347, s.
87 459.022, s. 464.012, or s. 468.707 with whom the physician
88 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or an established
89 written protocol that identifies the medical acts or evaluations
90 to be performed and conditions for their performance and that
91 attests to proficiency in the evaluation and management of
92 concussions.

93 2. Consult with, or utilize testing and evaluation of
94 cognitive functions performed by, a neuropsychologist licensed
95 under chapter 490.

96 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.