

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; providing an  
 12          effective date.

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

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

18           943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning  
 19           authorities.—

20           (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

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

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

29 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in  
30 athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout,  
31 workout, or other physical activity associated with the youth's  
32 candidacy for an athletic team.

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

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

48 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

49 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

50 (e) The organization shall adopt guidelines to educate  
51 athletic coaches, officials, administrators, student athletes,  
52 and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion and head  
53 injury.

54 (f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that  
55 require the parent of a student who is participating in  
56 interscholastic athletic competition or who is a candidate for

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57 an interscholastic athletic team to sign and return an informed  
58 consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head  
59 injury, including the risk of continuing to play after  
60 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in  
61 interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any  
62 practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated  
63 with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic  
64 team.

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

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