

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to brain and spinal cord injuries;  
 3           creating s. 381.781, F.S.; providing a short title;  
 4           providing legislative findings and intent; requiring  
 5           the advisory council on brain and spinal cord injuries  
 6           to annually submit a specified report to the  
 7           Legislature and the Governor; authorizing the State  
 8           Surgeon General, in consultation with the advisory  
 9           council, to issue a health advisory with respect to  
 10          contact sports for minors; providing requirements for  
 11          such advisory; authorizing the Governor, upon the  
 12          advice of the State Surgeon General, to set a minimum  
 13          age for contact sports, along with reasonable waivers  
 14          and exceptions; providing construction; providing  
 15          rulemaking authority; 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. Section 381.781, Florida Statutes, is created  
 20 to read:

21           381.781 Mac Parkman Act.—

22           (1) This section may be cited as the "Mac Parkman Act."

23           (2) The Legislature finds that while the adolescent brain  
 24 is still maturing and rapidly developing, it is more susceptible  
 25 to injury from concussions or sub-concussive impacts, which are

26 those impacts that are below the concussion threshold when the  
27 brain is shaken, but not severe enough to see symptoms of the  
28 damage to brain cells. The Legislature further finds that these  
29 injuries most often occur in contact sports and continued  
30 exposure to such injuries can lead to declines in cognitive  
31 abilities and mental health or to life-threatening conditions  
32 such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy or self-harm. It is the  
33 intent of the legislature that children under 14 years of age  
34 should limit or abstain from contact sports.

35 (3) The advisory council on brain and spinal cord injuries  
36 shall annually submit a report to the Governor, the President of  
37 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives with  
38 their findings and recommendations. The chair of the advisory  
39 council shall give testimony as needed to the Legislature on the  
40 findings of the advisory council and on new policy that could  
41 better mitigate and treat the risk of sub-concussive impacts and  
42 other brain and spinal cord injuries.

43 (4) (a) The State Surgeon General may, in consultation with  
44 the advisory council, issue a health advisory with respect to  
45 contact sports for minors. Such advisory shall be contained in a  
46 notice to be signed by the parent or guardian before a minor may  
47 engage in such organized activities.

48 (b) The Governor may, upon the advice of the State Surgeon  
49 General, set a minimum age for contact sports, along with  
50 reasonable waivers and exceptions to that minimum age such as

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51 return to play considerations and frequency of contact sports  
52 during a single year.

53 (c) Paragraph (b) only applies when such contact sports  
54 are to take place on public property and not when such sports  
55 are part of a private league on private property.

56 (5) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
57 section.

58 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.