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LC01277/SUB A/2
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Felag, McCaffrey, DeVall, Lanzi, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-91-2 and 16-91-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-91 entitled
2 "School and Youth Programs Concussion Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-91-2. Definitions.** -- ~~(a)~~ For the purpose of this section, the term "youth sports
4 programs" means any program organized for recreational and/or athletic competition purposes by
5 any school district or by any school participating in Rhode Island Interscholastic League
6 Competition, and whose participants are nineteen (19) years of age or younger.

7 **16-91-3. School district's guidelines to be developed and implemented.** -- (a) The
8 department of education and the department of health shall work in concert with the Rhode Island
9 ~~interscholastic league~~ [Interscholastic League](#) to develop and promulgate guidelines to inform and
10 educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of
11 concussion and head injury including continuing to play after concussion or head injury. A
12 concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete
13 and the athlete's parent and/or guardian prior to the youth athlete's return to practice or
14 competition.

15 (b) School districts are required to use training materials made available by the United
16 States Center for Disease Control and Prevention entitled "Heads Up: Concussion in the High
17 School Sports/Concussion in Youth Sports" and any updates or amendments thereto, or training
18 materials substantively and substantially similar thereto. The department of education shall post
19 training materials made available by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on its

1 website. All coaches, ~~trainers~~, and volunteers involved in a youth sport or activity covered by this
2 chapter must complete a training course and a refresher course annually thereafter in concussions
3 and traumatic brain injuries. Training may consist of videos, classes, and any other generally
4 accepted mode and medium of providing information. School districts are encouraged to have
5 school nurses complete a training course in concussions and traumatic brain injuries.

6 (c) School districts are encouraged to have all student athletes perform baseline ~~or~~
7 ~~"impact"~~ neuropsychological tested testing, computerized or otherwise ~~prior to the start of every~~
8 ~~sport season~~. Parents and/or guardians shall be provided with information as to the risk of
9 concussion and/or traumatic brain injuries prior to the start of every sport season and they shall
10 sign an acknowledgement as to their receipt of such information.

11 (d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a
12 practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time.

13 (e) A youth athlete, who has been removed from play, may not return to play until the
14 athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician who may consult with an athletic trainer, all of whom
15 shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. ~~and until the~~ The athlete
16 ~~receives~~ must receive written clearance to return to play from that licensed physician.

17 (f) All school districts are encouraged to have an athletic trainer or similarly trained
18 person at all recreational and athletic events addressed by this statute.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

- 1 This act would establish further safeguards and procedures governing how to treat youth
- 2 athletes who receive concussions.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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