

1 HB108  
2 128484-4  
3 By Representative Johnson (R)  
4 RFD: Health  
5 First Read: 01-MAR-11

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ENROLLED, An Act,

To provide for the adoption of policies for the management of concussion and head injury in youth sports, and mandate athletic head injury safety training.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds the following:

(1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year. A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

(2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from participants colliding with each other, the ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority occurs without loss of consciousness.

1           (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms  
2 of head injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable  
3 to greater injury and even death.

4           (b) The Legislature recognizes that there exists  
5 within the State of Alabama the need for guidelines and other  
6 pertinent information to inform and educate health care  
7 providers, school systems, coaches, youth athletes, and their  
8 parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and  
9 brain injury, including continuing to play after a suspected  
10 concussion or brain injury.

11           Section 2. (a) The governing body of each sport or  
12 recreational organization shall develop guidelines and other  
13 pertinent information and forms to inform and educate youth  
14 athletes and their parents or guardians in their program of  
15 the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury, including  
16 continuing to play after a suspected concussion or brain  
17 injury. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury  
18 information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth  
19 athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian prior to the  
20 youth athlete's initiating practice or competition.

21           (b) Each sports or recreational organization  
22 governing body shall ensure that coaches receive annual  
23 training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a  
24 concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a  
25 person suspected of having a concussion.

1           (c) Each sports or recreational organization shall  
2 establish by rule the requirements of the training which shall  
3 be provided by using designated resources to the extent  
4 practicable and timelines to ensure that, to the extent  
5 practicable, every coach receives the training before the  
6 beginning of practice for the school athletic team.

7           (d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a  
8 concussion or brain injury in practice or game shall be  
9 immediately removed from participation and may not return to  
10 play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician  
11 and receives written clearance to return to play from a  
12 licensed physician.

13           Section 3. This act shall become effective  
14 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
15 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 21-APR-11, as amended.

Greg Pappas  
Clerk

Senate

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02-JUN-11

Passed