

1 HB308
2 136464-2
3 By Representatives Johnson (R) and DeMarco
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 14-FEB-12

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a youth athlete who has been removed from play because of a concussion is required to receive written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician who has been trained in the evaluation and management of concussions before the athlete is allowed to return to participate in a practice or a game.

This bill would require each local board of education to develop guidelines and other pertinent information regarding medical evaluation of concussions or head injuries.

This bill would require a youth athlete who has been removed from a practice or an athletic game because of a concussion to be withheld from practice or participation in athletic games.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Section 2 of Act 2011-541 of the 2011
2 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 22-11E-2 of the Code
3 of Alabama 1975, relating to concussions and head injuries; to
4 require each local board of education to develop guidelines
5 and other pertinent information regarding medical evaluation
6 of concussions or head injuries; and to require a youth
7 athlete who has been removed from a practice or an athletic
8 game because of a concussion be withheld from practice for or
9 participation in athletic games for seven days from the date
10 of removal.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

12 Section 1. Section 2 of Act 2011-541 of the 2011
13 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 22-11E-2 of the Code
14 of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

15 "§22-11E-2.

16 "(a) ~~The~~ Each local school system and governing body
17 of each sport or recreational organization shall develop
18 guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform
19 and educate youth athletes and their parents or guardians in
20 their program of the nature and risk of concussion and brain
21 injury, including continuing to play after a suspected
22 concussion or brain injury. On a yearly basis, a concussion
23 and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned
24 by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian
25 prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or
26 competition.

1 "(b) Each local school system and sports or
2 recreational organization governing body shall ensure that
3 coaches receive annual training to learn how to recognize the
4 symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical
5 treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion.

6 "(c) Each local school system and sports or
7 recreational organization shall establish by rule the
8 requirements of the training which shall be provided by using
9 designated resources to the extent practicable and timelines
10 to ensure that, to the extent practicable, every coach
11 receives the training before the beginning of practice for the
12 school athletic team.

13 "(d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining
14 a concussion or brain injury in practice or a game shall be
15 immediately removed from participation and may not return to
16 play the day of the injury and until the athlete he or she is
17 evaluated by a licensed physician and receives written
18 clearance to return to play from a licensed physician."

19 Section 2. This act shall become effective
20 immediately following its passage and approval by the
21 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.