

1 HB9
2 187400-6
3 By Representative Williams (JD)
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18
6 PFD: 07/24/2017

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2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 Relating to youth sports programs; to require any
4 unpaid or volunteer coach or trainer associated with a youth
5 athletics association of the state, or a political subdivision
6 of the state, that sponsors or conducts any high risk youth
7 athletics activity where there is a likelihood that a child or
8 youth can sustain a serious injury be required to take a
9 course to reduce the likelihood of a child being injured.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

11 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
12 as the Coach Safety Act.

13 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the
14 following terms shall have the following meanings:

15 (1) ASSOCIATION. Any organization that administers
16 or conducts high risk youth athletics activities on property
17 owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state, an agent
18 of the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

19 (2) ATHLETICS PERSONNEL. ~~Coaching personnel,~~
20 ~~athletic directors,~~ Athletic directors and other individuals
21 actively involved in organizing, ~~conducting,~~ training, or
22 coaching sports activities for individuals age 14 and under.

23 (3) COACH. Any individual, whether paid, unpaid,
24 volunteer, or interim, who has been approved by the
25 association to organize, train, or supervise a youth athlete

1 or team of youth athletes. If an individual approved by the
2 association is unavailable, the term may include an individual
3 selected by a youth athlete or a team of youth athletes who
4 has not been approved by the association.

5 ~~(3)~~ (4) HIGH RISK YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. Any
6 organized sport in which there is a significant possibility
7 for a youth athlete to sustain a serious physical injury,
8 including, but not limited to, the sports of football,
9 basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, ice or field hockey,
10 cheerleading, and lacrosse.

11 ~~(4)~~ (5) YOUTH ATHLETE. Individuals age 14 and under
12 participating in an organized sport.

13 Section 3. (a) ~~Any state or political subdivision of~~
14 ~~a state affiliated~~ youth athletics association that sponsors
15 or conducts sports training or high risk youth athletic
16 activities for children age 14 years and younger shall require
17 all ~~unpaid or volunteer~~ coaches and athletics personnel to
18 complete an online or residence course approved by the
19 Department of Public Health, if available at no cost, which
20 provides him or her with information and awareness of actions
21 and measures that may be used to decrease the likelihood that
22 a youth athlete will sustain a serious injury while engaged or
23 participating in a high risk youth athletics activity.

1 ~~(b) Youth athletics activities under this section~~
2 ~~include organized sports activities conducted by either of the~~
3 ~~following:~~

4 ~~(1) Public and private schools under the~~
5 ~~Interscholastic Athletic Association.~~

6 ~~(2) Any youth athletics association that conducts~~
7 ~~youth athletics events at any facility, field, gymnasium,~~
8 ~~park, or other property owned, leased, operated, or maintained~~
9 ~~by the state or any political subdivision of the state.~~

10 ~~(c)~~ (b) Any youth injury mitigating and information
11 course required to be taken by ~~an unpaid or volunteer~~ a coach
12 or ~~trainer~~ athletics personnel under this section, at a
13 minimum, shall provide information on the following subjects:

14 (1) Emergency preparedness, planning, and rehearsal
15 for traumatic injuries.

16 (2) Concussions and head trauma.

17 (3) Heat and extreme weather related injury
18 familiarization.

19 (4) Physical conditioning and training equipment
20 usage.

21 (5) Heart defects and abnormalities leading to
22 sudden cardiac health death.

23 ~~(d)~~ ~~(c)~~ Any youth injury mitigating and information
24 course required to be completed by ~~an unpaid or volunteer~~ a

1 ~~coach or trainer athletics personnel under this section shall~~
2 ~~be at no cost to the individual.~~

3 ~~(e)(d)~~ (c) Any individual required to take an
4 injury mitigating course under this section shall complete the
5 course within 30 days of becoming actively engaged in, or
6 serving as, an athletic trainer athletics personnel or coach
7 for the association.

8 ~~(f)(e)~~ (d) Any ~~state or political subdivision of a~~
9 ~~state affiliated~~ youth athletic association that conducts high
10 risk youth athletic activities or events that requires ~~unpaid~~
11 ~~or volunteer~~ coaches and ~~trainers~~ athletics personnel to
12 complete an injury mitigating course under this section shall
13 maintain a record of individual course completion for as long
14 as that individual serves as athletic personnel or coach for
15 the association.

16 ~~(g)(f)~~ (e) The course requirement under this section
17 shall be an annual requirement to be completed not later than
18 the anniversary of the date on which the individual became
19 actively engaged in serving as athletic personnel or coach for
20 the association.

21 ~~(h)(g)~~ (f) All licensed and certified athletic
22 trainers, doctors, nurses, first responders, and health care
23 professionals with acute traumatic life support training shall
24 be exempt from the course requirement under this section.

1 ~~(i)(h)~~ (g) This act may not be construed to
2 eliminate the involvement of athletic trainers at youth
3 athletic events.

4 ~~(j)~~ ~~This act shall not be construed to impose any~~
5 ~~new liability or new requirements upon political subdivisions~~
6 ~~of the state.~~

7 (i) This act shall not be construed to impose any
8 additional liability upon political subdivisions of this
9 state.

10 ~~(j) (i)~~ ~~Athletics personnel and coaches are~~
11 ~~considered volunteers under subsection (d) of Section 6-5-336,~~
12 ~~Code of Alabama 1975, if the actions were taken in good faith~~
13 ~~and consistent with generally accepted techniques and methods~~
14 ~~in reducing serious injuries during high risk youth athletics~~
15 ~~activity.~~

16 ~~(j) (k)~~ ~~Athletics personnel who complete an online~~
17 ~~or residence course under this act shall be exempt from~~
18 ~~liability under the good samaritan law.~~

19 (j) Athletics personnel and coaches shall be
20 entitled to a defense from liability for any injury sustained
21 by a youth athlete as a result of participation in a high risk
22 youth athletic activity upon establishing (1) that they
23 completed the injury mitigation and information course
24 described in Section 3(a) and (2) that they reasonably

1 conformed their conduct to the safety techniques and methods
2 identified in such injury mitigation and information course.

3 (k) The Department of Public Health shall within 180
4 days of enactment of this Act adopt rules, not inconsistent
5 with this Act, for purposes of implementing, enforcing, and
6 administering this Act.

7 Section 4. This act shall become effective on the
8 ~~first day of the third month following its passage and~~
9 ~~approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.~~
10 effective date of rules adopted by the Department of Public
11 Health under subsection 3(k) of this Act.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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 30-JAN-18 and was passed again as amended by Executive Amendment 21-MAR-18.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate	<hr/> 08-MAR-18 <hr/>	Passed
Senate	22-MAR-18	Passed, as amended by Executive Amendment
	<hr/>	Yeas 29, Nays 0, Ab- stains 0