

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

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there is no provision  
9 requiring unpaid or volunteer coaches and trainers  
10 affiliated with a child or youth athletic  
11 association or a political subdivision that  
12 conducts or sponsors sports or sports training  
13 activities to complete a course providing coaches  
14 and trainers with information regarding measures  
15 that can be taken to reduce the probability that a  
16 child or youth athlete will be seriously injured  
17 while engaging in youth sports activities.

18 This bill would require that any unpaid or  
19 volunteer coach or trainer affiliated with a youth  
20 athletics association of the state or a political  
21 subdivision of the state that sponsors or conducts  
22 any high risk youth athletics activity where there  
23 is a likelihood that a child or youth may sustain a  
24 serious injury be required to take a course  
25 providing information to reduce those risks.

26  
27 A BILL

1 TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT

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

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

12 Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the  
13 following terms shall have the following meanings:

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

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

22 (3) HIGH RISK YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. Any  
23 organized sport in which there is a significant possibility  
24 for a youth athlete to sustain a serious physical injury,  
25 including, but not limited to, the sports of football,  
26 basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, ice or field hockey,  
27 cheerleading, and lacrosse.

1                   (4) YOUTH ATHLETE. Individuals age 14 and under  
2 participating in an organized sport.

3                   Section 2. (a) Any state or political subdivision of  
4 a state affiliated youth athletics association that sponsors  
5 or conducts sports training or high risk youth athletic  
6 activities for children age 14 years and younger shall require  
7 all unpaid or volunteer athletics personnel to complete an  
8 online or residence course which provides him or her with  
9 information and awareness of actions and measures that may be  
10 used to decrease the likelihood that a youth athlete will  
11 sustain a serious injury while engaged or participating in a  
12 high risk youth athletics activity.

13                   (b) Youth athletics activities under this section  
14 include organized sports activities conducted by either of the  
15 following:

16                   (1) Public and private schools under the  
17 Interscholastic Athletic Association.

18                   (2) Any youth athletics association that conducts  
19 youth athletics events at any facility, field, gymnasium,  
20 park, or other property owned, leased, operated, or maintained  
21 by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

22                   (c) Any youth injury mitigating and information  
23 course required to be taken by an unpaid or volunteer coach or  
24 trainer under this section, at a minimum, shall provide  
25 information on the following subjects:

26                   (1) Emergency preparedness, planning, and rehearsal  
27 for traumatic injuries.

1 (2) Concussions and head trauma.

2 (3) Heat and extreme weather related injury  
3 familiarization.

4 (4) Physical conditioning and training equipment  
5 usage.

6 (d) Any youth injury mitigating and information  
7 course required to be completed by an unpaid or volunteer  
8 coach or trainer under this section shall be at no cost to the  
9 individual.

10 (e) Any individual required to take an injury  
11 mitigating course under this section shall complete the course  
12 within 30 days of becoming actively engaged in, or serving as,  
13 an athletic trainer or coach for the association.

14 (f) Any state or political subdivision of a state  
15 affiliated youth athletic association that conducts high risk  
16 youth athletic activities or events that requires unpaid or  
17 volunteer coaches and trainers to complete an injury  
18 mitigating course under this section shall maintain a record  
19 of individual course completion for as long as that individual  
20 serves as athletic personnel for the association.

21 (g) The course requirement under this section shall  
22 be an annual requirement to be completed not later than the  
23 anniversary of the date on which the individual became  
24 actively engaged in serving as athletic personnel for the  
25 association.

1                   (h) All licensed and certified athletic trainers  
2 shall be exempt from the course requirement under this  
3 section.

4                   (i) This act may not be construed to eliminate the  
5 involvement of athletic trainers at youth athletic events.

6                   Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
7 first day of the third month following its passage and  
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.