



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 456**

February Session, 2010

\* SB00456ED 032210 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) For the school year  
2 commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, any person  
3 who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of  
4 Education and is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics shall  
5 complete an initial training course regarding concussions and head  
6 injuries, developed or approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
7 subsection (b) of this section, prior to commencing the coaching  
8 assignment for the season of such school athletics.

9 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school  
10 year thereafter, and after completion of the initial training course  
11 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, such coach shall  
12 annually review current and relevant information regarding  
13 concussions and head injuries, prepared or approved pursuant to  
14 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, prior to commencing  
15 the coaching assignment for the season of such school athletics. Such  
16 annual review shall not be required in any year when such coach is  
17 required to complete the refresher course, pursuant to subdivision (3)  
18 of this subsection, for reissuance of his or her coaching permit.

19 (3) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school  
20 year thereafter, a coach shall complete a refresher course, developed or

21 approved pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section,  
22 not later than five years after completion of the initial training course,  
23 as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such coach.  
24 Such coach shall thereafter retake such refresher course at least once  
25 every five years as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to  
26 such coach.

27 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2010, the State Board of Education, in  
28 consultation with (A) the governing authority for intramural and  
29 interscholastic athletics, (B) an appropriate organization representing  
30 licensed athletic trainers, and (C) an organization representing county  
31 medical associations, shall develop or approve a training course  
32 regarding concussions and head injuries. Such training course shall  
33 include, but not be limited to, (i) the recognition of the symptoms of a  
34 concussion or head injury, (ii) the means of obtaining proper medical  
35 treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion or head  
36 injury, and (iii) the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries,  
37 including the danger of continuing to play after sustaining a  
38 concussion or head injury and the proper method of allowing a  
39 student athlete who has sustained a concussion or head injury to  
40 return to athletic activity.

41 (2) On or before January 1, 2011, the State Board of Education, in  
42 consultation with the organizations described in subdivision (1) of this  
43 subsection, shall prepare or approve annual review materials  
44 regarding current and relevant information about concussions and  
45 head injuries.

46 (3) On or before January 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, in  
47 consultation with the organizations described in subdivision (1) of this  
48 subsection, shall develop or approve a refresher course regarding  
49 concussions and head injuries. Such refresher course shall include, but  
50 not be limited to, (A) an overview of key recognition and safety  
51 practices, (B) an update on medical developments in the field of  
52 concussion research and prevention, and (C) an update on new  
53 relevant federal, state and local laws and regulations.

54 (c) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching permit, in  
55 accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of section 10-145b of  
56 the general statutes, of any coach found to be in violation of this  
57 section.

58 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) (1) The coach of any  
59 intramural or interscholastic athletics shall immediately remove any  
60 student athlete participating in intramural or interscholastic athletics  
61 who (A) is observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent  
62 with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the  
63 head or body during a practice, game or competition, (B) is diagnosed  
64 with a concussion, or (C) is otherwise suspected of having sustained a  
65 concussion or head injury because such student athlete is observed to  
66 exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion  
67 regardless of when such concussion or head injury may have occurred.

68 (2) The coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in  
69 any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including,  
70 but not limited to, practices, games or competitions, sooner than  
71 twenty-four hours after such student athlete was so removed. The  
72 coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any  
73 supervised team activities involving physical exertion until such  
74 student athlete receives written clearance to participate in such  
75 supervised team activities involving physical exertion from a licensed  
76 health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of  
77 concussions.

78 (3) Following clearance pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
79 subsection, the coach shall not permit such student athlete to  
80 participate in any full, unrestricted supervised team activities without  
81 limitations on contact or physical exertion, including, but not limited  
82 to, practices, games or competitions, until such student athlete (A) no  
83 longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a  
84 concussion at rest or with exertion, and (B) receives written clearance  
85 to participate in such full, unrestricted supervised team activities from  
86 a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and

87 management of concussions.

88 (b) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching permit, in  
89 accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of section 10-145b of  
90 the general statutes, of any coach found to be in violation of this  
91 section.

92 (c) For purposes of this section, "licensed health care professional"  
93 means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general  
94 statutes, a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the  
95 general statutes, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
96 pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes or an athletic trainer  
97 licensed pursuant to chapter 375a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Changes were made to subsections (a) and (b) of section 1 to distinguish between the requirement that coaches need to complete specific training and the development of such training courses by the Department of Education.

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*