



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 363

February Session, 2012

Senate Bill No. 185

Senate, April 11, 2012

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE TO PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES ABOUT CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-149b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

11 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school
12 year thereafter, and after completion of the initial training course
13 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, such coach shall

14 annually review current and relevant information regarding
15 concussions and head injuries, prepared or approved pursuant to
16 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, prior to commencing
17 the coaching assignment for the season of such school athletics. Such
18 annual review shall not be required in any year when such coach is
19 required to complete the refresher course, pursuant to subdivision (3)
20 of this subsection, for reissuance of his or her coaching permit.

21 (3) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
22 year thereafter, a coach shall complete a refresher course, developed or
23 approved pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section,
24 not later than five years after completion of the initial training course,
25 as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such coach.
26 Such coach shall thereafter retake such refresher course at least once
27 every five years as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to
28 such coach.

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

43 (2) On or before July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the State
44 Board of Education, in consultation with the organizations described
45 in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall prepare or approve annual
46 review materials regarding current and relevant information about

47 concussions and head injuries.

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

56 (c) (1) On or before January 1, 2013, the State Board of Education, in
57 consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall develop
58 and approve a written statement to inform the parents and legal
59 guardians of student athletes involved in intramural or interscholastic
60 athletic activities regarding concussions and head injuries.

61 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2013, and each school
62 year thereafter, any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit
63 by the State Board of Education and is a coach of intramural or
64 interscholastic athletics shall, before beginning the athletic activity for
65 the school year, provide the parent or legal guardian of each
66 participating student athlete with a copy of the written statement
67 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection and obtain the parent or
68 legal guardian's signature attesting to the fact that the parent or legal
69 guardian has received a copy of such statement and authorizes the
70 student athlete to participate in the athletic activity.

71 [(c)] (d) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching
72 permit, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of section
73 10-145b, of any coach found to be in violation of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2012	10-149b

PH *Joint Favorable C/R*

ED

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	less than \$500	less than \$500

Explanation

The bill will result in a minimal cost to various municipalities of less than \$500, associated with requiring coaches to provide a written statement to parents about concussions and head injuries. As not all schools require permission slips to participate in a sport (some schools accept completed physical forms as an acceptable form of parental consent), some municipalities will have to print and attach the new form for parents to sign. There are minimal costs, anticipated to be less than \$500, associated with the printing of the form.

There is no fiscal impact to municipalities that currently require permission slips to play sports, as the written statement could be included in the existing permission slip.

There is no cost to the State Board of Education or the Department of Public Health to develop the written statement, as each agency currently has staff members with the expertise necessary to perform this task.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 185*****AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE TO PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES ABOUT CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the public health commissioner, to develop and approve a written statement to inform the parents and legal guardians of student athletes involved in intramural or interscholastic athletics about concussions and head injuries. It must do so by January 1, 2013.

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, the bill requires anyone who has an SBE-issued coaching permit and coaches intramural or interscholastic athletics to provide the written SBE statement described above to the parent or legal guardian of each participating student, before beginning the activity for the school year. The coach must obtain the parent's or legal guardian's signature, affirming that the parent or guardian received a copy of the statement and authorizes the student to participate in the activity. If a coach does not fulfill these requirements, SBE may revoke his or her coaching permit, in accordance with existing procedures for revocation proceedings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

BACKGROUND***Concussions and School Sports***

By law, anyone who has an SBE-issued coaching permit and who coaches intramural or interscholastic athletics must be trained in how to recognize and respond to head injuries and concussions. The law also requires intramural and interscholastic coaches to take a student athlete out of any game or practice if the athlete (1) shows signs of having suffered a concussion after an observed or suspected blow to

the head or body or (2) is diagnosed with a concussion. The coach must keep the athlete out of any game or practice until the athlete has received written clearance to participate from a licensed medical professional trained in evaluating and managing concussions (CGS §§ 10-149b & -149c).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 21 Nay 4 (03/09/2012)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 1 (03/23/2012)