



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 536**

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 966

*Senate, April 17, 2013*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY INJURY RATES IN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Public  
2 Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall,  
3 within available appropriations, establish a pilot program to study the  
4 incidence of injuries, and concussions in particular, to high school  
5 students during participation in interscholastic athletic activities. The  
6 Commissioner of Public Health shall make grants-in-aid from available  
7 funds to twenty high schools for the purpose of monitoring such  
8 injuries during a two-year period and reporting the occurrence of such  
9 injuries to the Commissioner of Public Health, in the form and manner  
10 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health. Any high school  
11 that receives a grant-in-aid shall monitor and report such injuries with  
12 the cooperation of the school athletic director, licensed athletic trainers  
13 that provide services to the school, any physician associated with the  
14 school athletic program and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic

15 Conference. The Commissioner of Public Health may accept funds  
16 from private and federal government sources for the purpose of  
17 making such grants-in-aid.

18 (b) Not later than one year after commencement of a pilot program,  
19 as described in subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of  
20 Public Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
21 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the  
22 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
23 health and education. Such report shall include a summary of the  
24 reports submitted to the commissioner in accordance with subsection  
25 (a) of this section and recommendations for decreasing the number  
26 and severity of injuries incurred by students during high school  
27 athletic activities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1(a), the phrase "from available appropriations" was changed to "from available funds", for internal consistency.

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	102,161	100,761
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Potential Cost	24,199	24,199

**Municipal Impact:** See below

**Explanation**

The bill results in a potential state cost of approximately \$126,000 in FY 14 and \$125,000 in FY 15. While it is specified that the Department of Public Health (DPH) implement the provisions of the bill within available appropriations, if the bill were to be implemented the costs to DPH would be approximately \$102,000 in FY 14 and \$101,000 in FY 15 and the costs to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits would be approximately \$24,000 in FY 14 and FY 15. Details on these costs are provided in the table below.

**Potential State Costs under sSB 966**

Item	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
<b>Department of Public Health (DPH)</b>		
0.5 Health Program Associate	31,766	31,766
0.5 Epidemiologist III	38,295	38,295
Grants-in-Aid to High Schools	30,000	30,000
Equipment (computers)	1,400	-

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 34.54% of payroll in FY 14 and FY 15.

Item	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Mileage and supplies	700	700
<b>DPH Cost</b>	<b>102,161</b>	<b>100,761</b>
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	24,199	24,199
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>126,359</b>	<b>124,959</b>

A part-time Health Program Associate is reflected to manage the Request for Proposal process and subsequent contracts with 20 high schools for grants-in-aid awarded (\$1,500 per school, per year is assumed). The purpose of these grants is to support high schools in monitoring and reporting the incidence of student injuries (concussions in particular) occurring during participation in interscholastic athletic activities. A part-time Epidemiologist III is reflected to develop data collection forms and utilize the web-based injury surveillance reporting data system (RIO System) to track and analyze injury data. Associated one-time equipment and on-going mileage and supply expenses are included for these positions. Fringe benefits under the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits would be \$24,000 in both FY 14 and FY 15.

### ***The Out Years***

The bill specifies that grants-in-aid to the 20 high schools and associated reporting from these high schools to DPH shall be made during a two-year period. As such, it is anticipated that the pilot and the associated costs would not continue into the out years.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sSB 966**

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY INJURY RATES IN SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 9 (04/01/2013)