



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 180

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6722

House of Representatives, March 23, 2015

The Committee on Children reported through REP. URBAN of the 43rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONCUSSIONS IN YOUTH ATHLETICS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity
4 involving participants of not less than seven years of age and not more
5 than nineteen years of age, who (A) engage in an organized athletic
6 game or competition against another team, club or entity or in practice
7 or preparation for an organized game or competition against another
8 team, club or entity, and (B) pay a fee to participate in such organized
9 athletic game or competition or whose cost to participate in such
10 athletic game or competition is sponsored by a municipality, business
11 or nonprofit organization. "Youth athletic activity" does not include
12 any college or university athletic activity, or an athletic activity that is
13 incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson; and

14 (2) "Operator" means any municipality, business or nonprofit

15 organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes or otherwise
16 oversees any youth athletic activity but shall not include any
17 municipality, business or nonprofit organization solely providing
18 access to, or use of, any field, court or other recreational area, whether
19 for compensation or not.

20 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, each
21 operator of a youth athletic activity shall make available a written or
22 electronic statement regarding concussions to each youth athlete and a
23 parent or legal guardian of each youth athlete participating in the
24 youth athletic activity. Such written or electronic statement shall be
25 made available upon registration of each youth athlete and shall
26 include educational content addressing, at a minimum: (1) The
27 recognition of signs or symptoms of a concussion, (2) the means of
28 obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of
29 sustaining a concussion, (3) the nature and risks of concussions,
30 including the danger of continuing to engage in youth athletic activity
31 after sustaining a concussion, and (4) the proper procedures for
32 allowing a youth athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to
33 athletic activity.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-149b of the general statutes is
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
36 *1, 2015*):

37 (a) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school
38 year thereafter, any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit
39 by the State Board of Education and is a coach of intramural or
40 interscholastic athletics shall complete an initial training course
41 regarding concussions, [which are a type of brain injury,] developed or
42 approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section,
43 prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the season of such
44 school athletics.

45 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school
46 year thereafter, any coach who has completed the initial training
47 course described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall annually

48 review current and relevant information regarding concussions,
 49 prepared or approved pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
 50 this section, prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the
 51 season of such school athletics. Such annual review shall not be
 52 required in any year when such coach is required to complete the
 53 refresher course, pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, for
 54 reissuance of his or her coaching permit.

55 (3) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
 56 year thereafter, a coach shall complete a refresher course, developed or
 57 approved pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section,
 58 not later than five years after completion of the initial training course,
 59 as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such coach.
 60 Such coach shall thereafter retake such refresher course at least once
 61 every five years as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to
 62 such coach.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	10-149b(a)

KID *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: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Less than \$5,000	Less than \$5,000

Explanation

The bill requires municipalities, and other operators of athletic activities, to annually provide a statement on concussions (including information such as signs and symptoms, proper medical treatment, etc.) to all youth participating in athletic activities, and their parents or legal guardians.

Municipalities that operate athletic activities will incur a cost, anticipated to be less than \$5,000 annually, with printing and mailing this information. Municipalities that choose to provide this information electronically, as the bill allows, may incur lower costs.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6722*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONCUSSIONS IN YOUTH ATHLETICS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires youth athletic activity operators, by January 1, 2016, to annually make a written or electronic statement on concussions available to every youth participating in a youth athletic activity and his or her parents or legal guardian.

The operator must make the statement available when the youth registers. The statement must include information on:

1. concussion signs or symptom recognition;
2. how to obtain proper medical treatment for someone suspected of sustaining a concussion;
3. the nature of concussions and their risks, including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after sustaining a concussion; and
4. proper procedures for allowing the athlete who sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

DEFINITIONS***Youth Athletic Activity***

The bill defines “youth athletic activity” as an organized athletic activity involving participants between ages seven and 19 who:

1. engage in an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity or practice or prepare for an organized game or competition against another team, club, or entity; and
2. pay a fee to participate or participate for free and a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization sponsors their participation cost.

It does not include any college or university athletic activity, or an athletic activity incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson.

Operator

The bill defines “operator” as any municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes, or otherwise oversees any youth athletic activity. It does not include a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that only provides access to, or use of, a field, court, or other recreational area, either for compensation or not.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/05/2015)