



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6492

LCO No. 3672



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS FOR COACHES, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Exertional heat illness" means an illness resulting from engaging
3 in physical activity in the heat, including, but not limited to, heat
4 cramps, heat syncope, heat exhaustion and heat stroke;
- 5 (2) "Heat cramps" means sudden or progressively and noticeably
6 evolving, involuntary, painful contractions of skeletal muscle during or
7 after engaging in physical activity in the heat;
- 8 (3) "Heat exhaustion" means the inability to effectively engage in
9 physical activity in the heat, secondary to a combination of factors,
10 including, but not limited to, cardiovascular insufficiency, hypotension,
11 energy depletion and central fatigue and is manifested by an elevated
12 core body temperature and associated with a high rate or volume of skin
13 blood flow, heavy sweating and dehydration;

14 (4) "Heat stroke" means a medical emergency characterized by
15 neuropsychiatric impairment and a high core body temperature,
16 typically 105.8° Fahrenheit or above;

17 (5) "Heat syncope" means sudden dizziness, feeling faint and fainting
18 experienced after engaging in physical activity in the heat; and

19 (6) "Intramural or interscholastic athletics" shall include any activity
20 sponsored by a school or local education agency, as defined in section
21 10-15f of the general statutes, or an organization sanctioned by the local
22 education agency that involves any athletic contest, practice,
23 scrimmage, competition, demonstration, display or club activity.

24 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
25 thereafter, any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the
26 State Board of Education and is a coach of intramural or interscholastic
27 athletics shall complete an exertional heat illness awareness education
28 program prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the season
29 of such intramural or interscholastic athletics. Such program shall be
30 developed or approved pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. For the
31 school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter,
32 any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board
33 of Education and is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics
34 shall annually review the program developed or approved pursuant to
35 subsection (c) of this section, prior to commencing the coaching
36 assignment for the season of such intramural or interscholastic athletics.

37 (c) On or before January 1, 2022, the governing authority for
38 intramural and interscholastic athletics, in consultation with an
39 appropriate organization representing licensed athletic trainers, an
40 organization representing sports medical doctors, an organization that
41 researches best practices in managing heat illness, and an organization
42 representing county medical associations, shall develop or approve an
43 exertional heat illness awareness education program for use by local and
44 regional boards of education. Such program shall be published on the
45 State Board of Education's Internet web site and shall include, but need

46 not be limited to, (1) the recognition of the symptoms of an exertional
47 heat illness, (2) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a
48 person suspected of having an exertional heat illness, and (3) the nature
49 and risk of exertional heat illness, including the danger of continuing to
50 engage in athletic activity after sustaining exertional heat illness and the
51 proper method of allowing a student athlete who has sustained
52 exertional heat illness to return to athletic activity.

53 (d) On or before October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
54 governing authority for intramural and interscholastic athletics, in
55 consultation with an appropriate organization representing licensed
56 athletic trainers, an organization representing sports medical doctors,
57 an organization that researches best practices in managing heat illness
58 and an organization representing county medical associations, shall
59 develop or approve annual review materials regarding current and
60 relevant information regarding exertional heat illness for use by local
61 and regional boards of education.

62 (e) On or before January 1, 2022, the governing authority for
63 intramural and interscholastic athletics, in consultation with an
64 appropriate organization representing licensed athletic trainers, an
65 organization representing sports medical doctors, an organization that
66 researches best practices in managing heat illness and an organization
67 representing county medical associations, shall develop a model
68 exertional heat illness awareness plan for use by local and regional
69 boards of education. Each local and regional board of education shall
70 implement such plan by utilizing written materials, online training or
71 videos or in-person training that shall address, at a minimum: (1) The
72 recognition of signs or symptoms of exertional heat illness, (2) the means
73 of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of an
74 exertional heat illness, (3) the nature and risks of exertional heat illness,
75 including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after
76 experiencing exertional heat illness, (4) the proper procedures for
77 allowing a student athlete who has experienced exertional heat illness
78 to return to athletic activity, and (5) best practices in the prevention and

79 treatment of exertional heat illness.

80 (f) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
81 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall prohibit a
82 student athlete from participating in any intramural or interscholastic
83 activity unless the student athlete, and a parent or guardian of such
84 student athlete, (1) reads written materials, (2) views online training or
85 videos, or (3) attends in-person training developed or approved
86 pursuant to this section. Acknowledgment of adherence to this standard
87 by the student athlete and the parent or guardian shall be made by the
88 parent's or guardian's signature on an athletic participation informed
89 consent form issued by the applicable local or regional board of
90 education.

91 (g) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching permit, in
92 accordance with the provisions of subsection (i) of section 10-145b of the
93 general statutes, 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	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

PH *Joint Favorable*