



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6511***

LCO No. 3792



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR YOUTH SPORTS COACHES, TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 21a-432 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity  
5 involving participants of not less than seven years of age, except as  
6 provided in subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of this section and not more  
7 than nineteen years of age, who (A) (i) engage in an organized athletic  
8 game or competition against another team, club or entity or in practice  
9 or preparation for an organized game or competition against another  
10 team, club or entity, or (ii) attend an organized athletic camp or clinic  
11 the purpose of which is to train, instruct or prepare such participants to  
12 engage in an organized athletic game or competition, and (B) (i) pay a  
13 fee to participate in such organized athletic game or competition or  
14 attend such camp or clinic, or (ii) whose cost to participate in such  
15 athletic game or competition or attend such camp or clinic is sponsored

16 by a municipality, business or nonprofit organization. "Youth athletic  
17 activity" does not include any college or university athletic activity, or  
18 an athletic activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson;  
19 and

20 (2) "Operator" means any municipality, business or nonprofit  
21 organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes or otherwise  
22 oversees any youth athletic activity but shall not include any  
23 municipality, business or nonprofit organization solely providing access  
24 to, or use of, any field, court or other recreational area, whether for  
25 compensation or not.

26 (b) [Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, each]  
27 Each operator of a youth athletic activity shall make available a written  
28 or electronic statement regarding concussions to each youth athlete and  
29 a parent or legal guardian of each youth athlete participating in the  
30 youth athletic activity. Such written or electronic statement shall be  
31 made available upon registration of each youth athlete and shall be  
32 consistent with the most recent information provided by the National  
33 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding concussions.  
34 Such written or electronic statement shall include educational content  
35 addressing, at a minimum: (1) The recognition of signs or symptoms of  
36 a concussion, (2) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a  
37 person suspected of sustaining a concussion, (3) the nature and risks of  
38 concussions, including the danger of continuing to engage in youth  
39 athletic activity after sustaining a concussion, and (4) the proper  
40 procedures for allowing a youth athlete who has sustained a concussion  
41 to return to athletic activity.

42 (c) No operator, or designee of such operator, shall be subject to civil  
43 liability for failing to make available the written or electronic statement  
44 regarding concussions pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

45 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
46 for purposes of this subsection and subsections (e) and (f) of this section,  
47 youth athletic activity also includes an organized athletic activity

48 involving participants less than seven years of age. On and after October  
49 1, 2022, an operator shall require any prospective employee, except as  
50 provided in subsection (f) of this section, who is eighteen years of age or  
51 older and applying for a position as a coach or instructor of a youth  
52 athletic activity or as an athletic trainer, licensed under chapter 375a, to  
53 submit to a comprehensive background check, including state and  
54 national criminal history records checks and a check of the state child  
55 abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The criminal  
56 history records check required pursuant to this subsection shall be  
57 conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. The provisions of this  
58 subsection shall not apply to an athletic coach of intramural or  
59 interscholastic athletics who is employed by a local or regional board of  
60 education, provided such board satisfies the requirements relating to  
61 state and national criminal history records checks applicable to  
62 employees of such board pursuant to section 10-221d. Any criminal  
63 history background check conducted pursuant to this subsection shall  
64 be completed not later than five business days after receipt of the request  
65 for such background check. Pending completion of all background  
66 check components described in this subsection, a prospective employee  
67 may begin work on a provisional basis, provided such prospective  
68 employee is supervised at all times by an employee who was subjected  
69 to a background check described in this subsection within the previous  
70 five years.

71 (e) The comprehensive background checks required pursuant to  
72 subsection (d) of this section shall be conducted, in accordance with the  
73 provisions of 45 CFR 98.43, as amended from time to time, at least once  
74 every five years for each coach, instructor or athletic trainer employed  
75 by an operator.

76 (f) A person who is eighteen years of age or older and applies for a  
77 position as a coach, instructor or athletic trainer for a youth athletic  
78 activity in the state shall not be required to submit to such  
79 comprehensive background checks if such person (1) is an employee of  
80 an operator of a youth athletic activity in the state, or has not been  
81 separated from employment as a coach, instructor or athletic trainer for

82 a youth athletic activity in the state for a period of more than one  
83 hundred eighty days, and (2) has successfully completed such  
84 comprehensive background checks in the previous five years. Nothing  
85 in this section prohibits an operator from requiring that a person  
86 applying for a position as a coach, instructor or athletic trainer submit  
87 to comprehensive background checks more than once during a five-year  
88 period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2021	21a-432
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To require youth sports coaches, instructors and athletic trainers who are eighteen years of age or older to submit to a comprehensive background check.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*