



House of Representatives

File No. 577

General Assembly

February Session, 2022 **(Reprint of File No. 116)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5240
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 21, 2022

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
YOUTH AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study injury prevention and safety protocols in youth sports leagues
3 and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs. The task force
4 shall (1) analyze (A) the efficacy and safety of the use of protective neck
5 guards in youth, intramural and interscholastic ice hockey, and (B) best
6 practices for injury prevention and safety protocols, and compare such
7 best practices to existing practices across the state in order to identify
8 areas for improvement, and (2) make recommendations for the
9 implementation of a state-wide system of injury prevention and safety
10 protocol review, including, but not limited to, requirements that (A)
11 such leagues and programs shall make public their injury prevention
12 practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices
13 and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to
14 the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Department of Public

15 Health shall meet annually with representatives of youth sports leagues
16 and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs to discuss best
17 practices for injury prevention and safety protocols.

18 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
20 one of whom has expertise in sports medicine and one of whom has
21 expertise in neuroscience;

22 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
23 whom has expertise in sports psychology and one of whom is a
24 representative of a municipal youth sports league;

25 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
26 Representatives, one of whom is a member of the General Assembly and
27 one of whom is a representative of a municipal park and recreation
28 department that is a member of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks
29 Association;

30 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
31 is a representative of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic
32 Conference and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
33 Athletic Trainers' Association;

34 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
35 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
36 Association of Athletic Directors and one of whom is a representative of
37 the Connecticut High School Coaches Association;

38 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
39 is a member of the General Assembly and one of whom is a
40 representative of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools;

41 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
42 designee; and

43 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

44 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
45 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
46 be filled by the appointing authority.

47 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
48 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force
49 from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall
50 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
51 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

52 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
53 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
54 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

55 (f) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
56 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (A) of
57 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
59 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
60 of the general statutes.

61 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
62 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (B) of
63 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, and subdivision (2) of
64 subsection (a) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the
65 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
66 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
67 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits a report
68 pursuant to this subsection or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

69 Sec. 2. (*Effective January 1, 2023*) Any youth athletic program operated
70 by a private entity may adopt the recommendations of the task force to
71 study injury prevention and safety protocols in youth sports leagues
72 and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs established
73 pursuant to section 1 of this act in developing such program's injury
74 prevention and safety protocols.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2023</i>	New section

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: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study injury prevention and safety protocols in youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

House "A" made minor changes to the composition of the task force. It has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5240 (as amended by House "A")*

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/10/2022)