



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5240

February Session, 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) Nine appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing
20 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
21 relating to children, as follows: One (A) with expertise in sports
22 medicine, (B) with expertise in neuroscience, (C) with expertise in sports
23 psychology, (D) who is a representative of a municipal youth sports
24 league, (E) who is a representative of a municipal park and recreation
25 department that is a member of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks
26 Association, (F) who is a representative of the Connecticut
27 Interscholastic Athletic Conference, (G) who is a representative of the
28 Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association, (H) who is a representative
29 of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors, and (I) who is a
30 representative of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association;

31 (2) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
32 designee; and

33 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

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

37 (d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
38 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall select
39 the chairperson of the task force from among the members of the task
40 force. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force,
41 which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of
42 this section.

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

46 (f) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
47 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (A) of
48 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing
49 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

50 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
51 of the general statutes.

52 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
53 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (B) of
54 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, and subdivision (2) of
55 subsection (a) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the
56 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
57 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
58 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits a report
59 pursuant to this subsection or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

60 Sec. 2. (Effective January 1, 2023) Any youth athletic program operated
61 by a private entity may adopt the recommendations of the task force to
62 study injury prevention and safety protocols in youth sports leagues
63 and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs established
64 pursuant to section 1 of this act in developing such program's injury
65 prevention and safety protocols.

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

KID Joint Favorable Subst.