



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 53

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6561

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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 practices and safety protocols in youth sports
3 leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs. The task
4 force shall (1) analyze (A) the efficacy and safety of the use of protective
5 neck guards in ice hockey, (B) information concerning cardiac health
6 and youth athletes, to determine whether and what type of cardiac
7 testing should be required for participation in all or certain leagues or
8 programs, (C) the effects of synthetic turf, crumb rubber and pesticides
9 on the health of youth athletes, including, but not limited to, rates of
10 cancer and other chronic or acute illnesses attributable to such
11 substances, in order to identify safe and unsafe playing field conditions
12 for youth athletes, and (D) best practices for injury prevention and
13 safety protocols and compare such best practices to existing practices
14 across the state in order to identify areas for improvement; and (2) make

15 recommendations for the implementation of a state-wide system of
16 injury prevention practices and safety protocol review, including, but
17 not limited to, requirements that (A) such leagues and programs make
18 public their injury prevention practices and safety protocols and any
19 amendments to such practices and protocols, and report such practices,
20 protocols and amendments to the Department of Public Health, and (B)
21 the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee,
22 shall meet annually with representatives of youth sports leagues and
23 intramural and interscholastic athletic programs to discuss best
24 practices for injury prevention and safety protocols.

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

26 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
27 one of whom has expertise in sports medicine and one of whom has
28 expertise in neuroscience;

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

32 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
33 Representatives, one of whom has expertise in cardiology and one of
34 whom has expertise in environmental health;

35 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
36 is a representative of a nonprofit organization that serves as a governing
37 body for interscholastic athletic activities and one of whom is a
38 representative of a state-wide association of athletic trainers;

39 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
40 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of a state-wide
41 association of athletic directors and one of whom has expertise in
42 orthopedics;

43 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
44 is a member of the General Assembly and one of whom is a
45 representative of a state-wide association of independent schools;

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

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

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

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

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

60 (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
61 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (A) of
62 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing
63 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
64 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
65 of the general statutes.

66 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
67 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraphs (B) to
68 (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and
69 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing
70 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
71 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
72 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
73 submits a report pursuant to this subsection or January 1, 2025,
74 whichever is later.

75 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) Any youth athletic program
76 operated by a private entity may adopt the recommendations of the task

77 force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth
 78 sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs
 79 established pursuant to section 1 of this act in developing such
 80 program's injury prevention practices 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, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "that (A) such leagues and programs shall make public their injury prevention practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Department of Public Health " was changed to "requirements that (A) such leagues and programs make public their injury prevention practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee," for clarity, and in Section 1(g), "subparagraph (B)" was changed to "subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive," for accuracy.

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: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the task force has the expertise to carry out the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6561****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES.****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 14-member task force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs.

The bill requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Children's Committee by January 1, 2025, except those related to the use of protective neck guards in ice hockey must be reported by January 1, 2024. The task force terminates on the date that it submits its final report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

The bill also allows any privately operated youth athletic program to adopt the task force's recommendations in developing its injury prevention practices and safety protocols.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision that allows youth athletic programs to adopt the task force's recommendations is effective January 1, 2024.

INJURY PREVENTION PRACTICES AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS TASK FORCE***Purpose***

The task force must analyze:

1. the efficacy and safety of using protective neck guards in ice hockey;

2. information on cardiac health and youth athletes, to determine whether and what type of cardiac testing should be required for participation in all or certain leagues or programs;
3. the effects of synthetic turf, crumb rubber, and pesticides on the health of youth athletes, including rates of cancer and other chronic or acute illnesses attributable to these substances, to identify safe and unsafe playing field conditions for youth athletes; and
4. best practices for injury prevention and safety protocols and compare them to existing practices across the state to identify areas for improvement.

It must also make recommendations to implement a state-wide system of injury prevention practices and safety protocol review, including requirements that:

1. leagues and programs make their injury prevention practices and safety protocols public (including any amendments), and report them to the Department of Public Health, and
2. the public health commissioner, or their designee, meet annually with representatives of youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs to discuss best practices for injury prevention and safety protocols.

Membership and Appointments

The task force's 14 members must be appointed as follows:

1. two by the House speaker, one each with expertise in sports medicine and neuroscience;
2. two by the Senate president pro tempore, one with expertise in sports psychology and one municipal youth sports league representative;
3. two by the House majority leader, one each with expertise in

cardiology and environmental health;

4. two by the Senate majority leader, one who is a representative of a nonprofit governing body for interscholastic athletic activities and another who represents a state-wide association of athletic trainers;
5. two appointed by the House minority leader, one who represents a state-wide association of athletic directors and another who is an orthopedics expert;
6. two by the Senate minority leader, one who is a legislator and another who represents a state-wide association of independent schools; and
7. the Education and Public Health commissioners, or their designees.

Initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill becomes effective and the appointing authority must fill any vacancies.

The House speaker and the Senate president must select a chairperson from among the task force’s members, who must schedule the first meeting within 60 days after the bill’s effective date.

The Children Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the task force’s administrative staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)