HB308

136464-2

By Representatives Johnson (R) and DeMarco

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 14-FEB-12
SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a youth athlete who has been removed from play because of a concussion is required to receive written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician who has been trained in the evaluation and management of concussions before the athlete is allowed to return to participate in a practice or a game.

This bill would require each local board of education to develop guidelines and other pertinent information regarding medical evaluation of concussions or head injuries.

This bill would require a youth athlete who has been removed from a practice or an athletic game because of a concussion to be withheld from practice or participation in athletic games.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT
To amend Section 2 of Act 2011-541 of the 2011 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 22-11E-2 of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to concussions and head injuries; to require each local board of education to develop guidelines and other pertinent information regarding medical evaluation of concussions or head injuries; and to require a youth athlete who has been removed from a practice or an athletic game because of a concussion be withheld from practice for or participation in athletic games for seven days from the date of removal.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 2 of Act 2011-541 of the 2011 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 22-11E-2 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§22-11E-2.

"(a) The Each local school system and governing body of each sport or recreational organization shall develop guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate youth athletes and their parents or guardians in their program of the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury, including continuing to play after a suspected concussion or brain injury. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or competition.
"(b) Each local school system and sports or recreational organization governing body shall ensure that coaches receive annual training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion.

"(c) Each local school system and sports or recreational organization shall establish by rule the requirements of the training which shall be provided by using designated resources to the extent practicable and timelines to ensure that, to the extent practicable, every coach receives the training before the beginning of practice for the school athletic team.

"(d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury in practice or a game shall be immediately removed from participation and may not return to play the day of the injury and until the athlete he or she is evaluated by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician."

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.