

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 958

5 By: Senators Files, D. Sanders, Bledsoe, J. Hendren
6 By: Representatives Davis, Neal, Sorvillo
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ADOPT THE MANPOWER SPORTS STUDENT
10 PROTECTION ACT; TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM
11 PARTICIPATING IN AN ORGANIZATION THAT DISTINGUISHES
12 BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR THE
13 PURPOSE OF COUNTING STUDENTS OR CLASSIFYING SCHOOLS
14 FOR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16
17
18 TO ADOPT THE MANPOWER SPORTS STUDENT
19 PROTECTION ACT.
20
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.

25 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

26 (1) Concussion is one (1) of the most commonly reported injuries
27 in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational
28 activities;

29 (2) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates
30 that as many as three million nine hundred thousand (3,900,000) sports-
31 related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each
32 year;

33 (3) A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
34 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull;

35 (4) Concussion is a type of brain injury that can range from
36 mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works;



1 (5) Numerous lawsuits have been filed concerning concussions
2 sustained by student athletes during participation in school-sponsored
3 athletic programs; and

4 (6) Some athletes are more exposed to the risk of concussion by
5 the type of athletic activity in which they participate.

6 (b) The intent of this act is to promote student athlete safety by
7 ensuring that athletic competitions in manpower sports are organized fairly
8 by size, regardless of type of school.

9
10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, is amended to
11 add an additional section to read as follows:

12 6-13-113. Participation in certain organizations.

13 (a) As used in this section "manpower sports" means a sport with
14 significant person-to-person contact that may increase an athlete's exposure
15 to head injury, including without limitation football.

16 (b) Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, a school district shall
17 not participate in an organization that governs extra-curricular activities,
18 including athletics, if the organization distinguishes between public schools
19 and private schools for the purpose of counting students or classifying
20 schools for athletic conference play in manpower sports.

21 (c) A public school or private school that voluntarily chooses move up
22 a classification level does not violate this section

23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36