

Senate Bill 44

By: Senators James of the 35th and Butler of the 55th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions relative to youth athletic activities, so as to
3 require preparticipation physical examinations for youth athletes participating in youth sports
4 leagues; to provide for definitions; to require use of the State Board of Education
5 preparticipation physical examination form; to provide for requirements; to provide for
6 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to miscellaneous provisions relative to youth athletic activities, is amended by
11 adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-2-324.4.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Youth athlete' means a participant in a youth athletic activity who is seven years of
15 age or older and under 19 years of age.

16 (2)(A) 'Youth athletic activity' means:

17 (i) An organized athletic activity in which the majority of the participants are youth
18 athletes and are engaging in an organized athletic game or competition against another
19 team, club, or entity or in practice or preparation for an organized game or
20 competition against another team, club, or entity; or

21 (ii) Competition within an amateur sports organization that is not regulated under the
22 Amateur Sports Act of 1978, 36 U.S.C. Section 2205, et. seq.;

23 (B) The term shall not include elementary and secondary education programs, college
24 or university activities, or an activity which is entered into for instructional purposes
25 only.

26 (3) 'Youth sports league' means a public or private organization or facility that conducts
27 an organized youth athletic activity in which a participation fee and registration are
28 required.

29 (b)(1) Each youth sports league shall require youth athletes to have a physical
30 examination prior to participation in any youth athletic activity. The medical professional
31 conducting the physical examination shall use the State Board of Education
32 preparticipation physical examination form as provided for pursuant to Code
33 Section 20-2-319.2.

34 (2) This subsection shall be satisfied by such form if completed within 12 months of the
35 beginning of the athletic season of the youth sports activity for which the youth athlete
36 is participating, whether such form was completed for purposes of a school activity or
37 other youth sports league.

38 (3) The youth sports league shall receive a copy of the completed preparticipation
39 physical examination form for the youth athlete prior to such youth athlete's participation
40 in any youth athletic activity. The youth sports league shall allow such youth athlete's
41 participation only upon the indication upon such form that such youth athlete is cleared
42 for such youth athletic activity.

43 (4) Unless required by state or federal law or in cases of health or safety emergencies,
44 such form in the possession of the youth sports league shall not be disclosed beyond
45 persons working on behalf of the youth sports league to determine whether the youth
46 athlete meets the requirements for participation pursuant to this Code section."

47 **SECTION 2.**

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.