

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3994**

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act creating a commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. There is hereby established a special commission to study concussions that  
2 occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools. The commission shall  
3 consist of 9 members, one of whom shall be the commissioner of public health or designee, who  
4 shall serve as chair, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Brain Injury Association of  
5 Massachusetts; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic  
6 Association; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts; and 5  
7 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom shall be a physician with expertise in  
8 the management of sports-related concussions; 1 of whom shall be a researcher specializing in  
9 the study of the long-term consequences of brain trauma; 1 of whom is a professional whose  
10 primary responsibility is that of athletic director at a Massachusetts high school; and 1 of whom  
11 is a representative of private school athletic programs in Massachusetts. In appointing members  
12 of the commission, consideration shall be given to race, gender and geographic diversity.

13           The commission shall: (i) analyze current data on the prevalence and causes of sports-  
14 related concussions; (ii) review the rules associated with each sport and safety policies currently  
15 in effect with respect to each such sport; and (iii) study the cost and effectiveness of baseline  
16 concussion testing of athletes.

17           The commission shall make recommendations regarding: (i) methods of reducing and  
18 preventing concussions; (ii) procedures to be employed by schools to identify and respond to  
19 occurrences of concussions; (iii) whether baseline concussion testing should be required for  
20 students participating in high school athletics; and (iv) any legislation the commission deems  
21 necessary to effect its recommendations.

22           The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint  
23 committee on public health no later than February 1, 2017. The commission shall also submit a  
24 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations with the committee on or before  
25 December 1, 2016.