

## Chapter 653

### (House Bill 1332)

AN ACT concerning

#### **Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) one representative of the State Board of Education with experience related to high school sports programs, appointed by the chair of the State Board;

(4) one representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene with experience related to sports injuries or adolescent health, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

(5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one athletic trainer employed by a high school who is a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association;

(ii) one orthopedic physician with experience in adolescent female anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries;

(iii) one orthopedic physician with expertise in adolescent female orthopedic ankle or shoulder injuries;

(iv) one physician with expertise in adolescent female concussion injuries;

(v) one pediatrician with expertise in adolescent female health;

(vi) one epidemiologist with expertise in adolescent female sports injuries;

~~(vii)~~ (vii) one physical therapist with expertise in treating ligamentous knee and orthopedic ankle injuries in adolescent female athletes;

~~(viii)~~ (viii) one female varsity member of a high school soccer, lacrosse, or basketball team who incurred an ACL injury while participating in a team sport;

~~(ix)~~ (ix) one high school athletic director with experience coaching high school female athletes;

(x) one individual employed by an intercollegiate athletic department at an institution of higher education in the State;

~~(xi)~~ (xi) one coach of a high school girls' lacrosse team;

~~(xii)~~ (xii) one coach of a high school girls' soccer team; and

~~(xiii)~~ (xiii) one coach of a high school girls' basketball team.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) review recent medical research regarding the nature and risks of sports injuries incurred by high school female athletes, including concussions, ACL injuries, shoulder injuries, and orthopedic ankle injuries;

(2) report on the rate of sports injuries incurred by high school female athletes compared to high school male athletes in the State;

(3) study effective methods of reducing sports injuries incurred by high school female athletes, including implementation of preventive measures such as conditioning exercises and the use of protective equipment;

(4) establish protocols and standards for clearing a female athlete to return to play following an injury, including treatment plans for such athletes;

(5) review statutes and regulations from other states regarding high school programs designed to prevent the higher rate of injury of female athletes compared to male athletes;

(6) study whether the State Department of Education should develop statutory or regulatory requirements for high school female athletic programs for the prevention of injuries; and

(7) make recommendations regarding injury prevention, including whether high schools in the State should adopt policies that:

(i) limit the frequency and duration of practice;

(ii) restrict athletic maneuvers that endanger adolescent females, such as heading a soccer ball;

(iii) promote a warm-up program consisting of specific neuromuscular and proprioceptive training techniques, such as the Prevent Injury and Enhance Performance Program (PEP); and

(iv) require the use of additional protective equipment for female athletes.

(g) (1) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall submit an interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(2) On or before December 1, 2015, the Task Force shall submit a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2014.**