

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2760

By: Kirby and Hoskin of the  
House

3 and

4 Griffin of the Senate  
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7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 24-155, which relates to concussion  
9 information for youth athletes; defining certain  
10 terms; requiring State Department of Health to create  
11 concussion management section on its website;  
12 requiring certain information to be disseminated and  
13 acknowledgement to be completed by athlete and  
14 parent; requiring certain training by certain  
15 individuals; requiring certain individuals to remove  
16 athlete from event under certain circumstances;  
17 preventing athlete from participating in event until  
18 the athlete is permitted to return by health care  
19 provider; requiring governing boards to establish  
20 minimum penalties; requiring Department to promulgate  
21 certain rules; and providing an effective date.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-155, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

Section 24-155. A. As defined in this act:

1. "Athlete" means a secondary-school-age individual who is  
participating in a sport which is individual- and/or team-based,  
outside of school or within school and both competitive or  
noncompetitive; and

1        2. "Health care provider" means an individual who is  
2 registered, certified, licensed or otherwise recognized by the state  
3 to provide medical treatment and who is trained and experienced in  
4 the evaluation, management and care of concussions.

5        B. The State Department of Health shall create a concussion  
6 management section on its website to provide the guidelines  
7 necessary for each school district board of education and youth  
8 sports organizations to develop their own policies and procedures  
9 pertaining to, but not limited to:

10        1. A concussion and head injury information sheet for game  
11 officials, team officials, athletes, parents or guardians and other  
12 persons having care or charge of athletes of the signs and symptoms  
13 of concussion or head injury and the risk of continuing to practice  
14 or compete in an athletic event or activity after sustaining a  
15 concussion or head injury;

16        2. "Return to Learn" guidelines for teachers and relevant  
17 school personnel pertaining to athletes who are returning to the  
18 classroom after sustaining a concussion or head injury;

19        3. "Graduated Stepwise Return to Athletic Participation"  
20 guidelines for team officials pertaining to athletes returning to  
21 practice or competition after a concussion or head injury; and

22        4. Links to one or more free online concussion training  
23 programs as provided by the Centers for Disease Control and  
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1 Prevention (CDC), the National Federation of State High School  
2 Associations (NFHS) or a comparable program or resource.  
3 The Department shall periodically review the guidelines and update  
4 it accordingly.

5 C. Each school district board of education and youth sports  
6 organization or association shall work in cooperation with the  
7 ~~Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association~~ to develop the  
8 ~~guidelines and other pertinent information and forms~~ policies and  
9 procedures pursuant to subsection B of this section to inform and  
10 educate their respective coaches, game officials, team officials,  
11 ~~youth athletes,~~ and ~~their~~ his or her parents or guardians of the  
12 nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including continuing  
13 to play after concussion or head injury. On an annual basis, a  
14 ~~concussion and head injury information sheet shall be completed and~~  
15 ~~returned to the school district by the youth athlete and the~~  
16 ~~athlete's parent or guardian prior to the youth athlete's~~  
17 ~~participation in practice or competition~~ information regarding  
18 concussion and head injuries shall be disseminated to the athlete  
19 and his or her parent or guardian. Acknowledgment and understanding  
20 of the information shall be completed by the athlete and the  
21 athlete's parent or guardian and maintained by the school or the  
22 youth sports organization or association prior to the athlete's  
23 participation in practice or competition.

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1 1. On an annual basis, game officials and team officials shall  
2 undergo concussion training provided by the CDC, the NFHS or a  
3 comparable program or resource. A record of completion of the  
4 training course shall be readily available upon request.

5 2. If any game official or team official responsible for the  
6 care and safety of an athlete in an athletic event becomes aware of  
7 or suspects an athlete is exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors  
8 consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, he or  
9 she shall remove the athlete from the practice or competition.

10 3. If an athlete is removed from practice or competition as  
11 provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection, the athlete shall not,  
12 on the same day the athlete is removed, be permitted to return to  
13 that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice  
14 or competition, unless deemed eligible pursuant to the provisions of  
15 paragraph 4 of this subsection.

16 ~~B. A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion~~  
17 ~~or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from~~  
18 ~~participation at that time.~~

19 ~~C. A youth~~ 4. An athlete who has been removed from  
20 participation as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B C of this  
21 section may not participate until the athlete is evaluated by a  
22 ~~licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and~~  
23 ~~management of concussion~~ and receives written clearance to return to  
24 participation from that health care provider. The health care

1 provider may be a volunteer. A volunteer who authorizes a youth  
2 athlete to return to participation shall not be liable for civil  
3 damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such  
4 care, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or  
5 willful or wanton misconduct.

6 D. Respective governing boards shall establish the following  
7 minimum penalties for those individuals set forth in paragraph 1 of  
8 subsection C of this section:

9 1. First violation shall be additional concussion recognition  
10 and management education as predetermined by the governing board;  
11 and

12 2. Second violation shall be suspension from the sport until  
13 appearance before the governing board.

14 E. The Department shall promulgate rules necessary to implement  
15 the provisions of this act.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of March, 2016.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the Senate