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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Felag, McCaffrey, DeVall, Lanzi, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-91-2 and 16-91-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-91 entitled  
2 "School and Youth Programs Concussion Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-91-2. Definitions.** -- (a) For the purpose of this section, the term "youth sports  
4 programs" means any program organized for recreational and/or athletic competition purposes by  
5 any school district or by any school participating in Rhode Island Interscholastic League  
6 Competition, and whose participants are nineteen (19) years of age or younger.

7 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "licensed healthcare professional" means  
8 and includes a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 5-37 of the general laws ("board of medical  
9 licensure and discipline"), a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 5-54 of the general  
10 laws ("physician assistants"), a certified nurse practitioner licensed pursuant to chapter 5-34 of  
11 the general laws ("nurses"), or a licensed athletic trainer licensed pursuant to chapter 5-60 of the  
12 general laws ("athletic trainers"), all of whom shall be trained in the evaluation and management  
13 of concussions.

14 **16-91-3. School district's guidelines to be developed and implemented.** -- (a) The  
15 department of education and the department of health shall work in concert with the Rhode Island  
16 interscholastic league to develop and promulgate guidelines to inform and educate coaches, youth  
17 athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury  
18 including continuing to play after concussion or head injury. A concussion and head injury  
19 information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent and/or

1 guardian prior to the youth athlete's return to practice or competition.

2 (b) School districts are required to use training materials made available by the United  
3 States Center for Disease Control and Prevention entitled "Heads Up: Concussion in the High  
4 School Sports/Concussion in Youth Sports" and any updates or amendments thereto, or training  
5 materials substantively and substantially similar thereto. The department of education shall post  
6 training materials made available by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on its  
7 website. All coaches, ~~trainers~~, and volunteers involved in a youth sport or activity covered by this  
8 chapter must complete a training course and a refresher course annually thereafter in concussions  
9 and traumatic brain injuries. Training may consist of videos, classes, and any other generally  
10 accepted mode and medium of providing information. School districts are encouraged to have  
11 school nurses complete a training course in concussions and traumatic brain injuries.

12 (c) School districts ~~are encouraged to~~ shall have all student athletes baseline or "impact"  
13 tested prior to the start of every sport season. Parents and/or guardians shall be provided with  
14 information as to the risk of concussion and/or traumatic brain injuries prior to the start of every  
15 sport season and they shall sign an acknowledgement as to their receipt of such information.

16 (d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a  
17 practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time.

18 (e) A youth athlete, who has been removed from play, may not return to play until the  
19 athlete is evaluated by a licensed ~~physician~~ healthcare professional and until the athlete receives  
20 written clearance to return to play from that licensed ~~physician~~ healthcare professional.

21 (f) All school districts are encouraged to have an athletic trainer or similarly trained  
22 person at all recreational and athletic events addressed by this statute.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

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1           This act would establish further safeguards and procedures governing how to treat youth  
2 athletes who receive concussions.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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