

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 671

By Mitchell

A RESOLUTION to establish a Sports Brain Trauma working group to examine long-term effects of concussions and brain trauma.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 148 of 2013 to adopt guidelines and procedures relative to the treatment of youth sports-related injuries, primarily concussions and brain trauma; and

WHEREAS, the long-term effects of concussions and brain trauma on individuals is an area only now beginning to receive attention; and

WHEREAS, with a focus on collegiate athletics, a team of medical professionals from across the country has formed the National Sports Concussion Outcome Study to examine the issue; and

WHEREAS, it is of vital importance that the appropriate officials in the State of Tennessee continually monitor and address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of concussive head injuries at both the K-12 and collegiate level; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the commissioner of health, in conjunction with the chancellor of the board of regents, the president of the University of Tennessee system and the commissioner of education, shall establish a working group on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of concussive head injuries in student-athletes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commissioner shall invite the participation in the working group by representatives of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, the Tennessee School Board Association, the Tennessee Medical Association, the Tennessee

Secondary School Athletic Association, the chancellor of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, sports medicine practitioners, medical providers, school athletic directors, and athletic trainers, and representatives of any other stakeholder group or interested party the commissioner considers appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the working group shall develop recommendations on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of concussive head injuries in student-athletes, including, but not limited to, avoiding concussive head injuries through education, baseline and post-concussion testing and diagnosis of student-athletes, return-to-play guidelines, training for school athletic directors and athletic trainers, the delivery of post-concussion management services to concussed athletes and ways in which to effectively integrate education, training and diagnostic recommendations to school and university athletic programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commissioner of education shall report the findings and recommendations of the working group to the Senate Education Committee and the House Education Committee no later than March 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.