

SENATE FILE NO. SF0038

School athletics safety.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Landen, Anderson, Christensen,
Coe, Meier, Peterson and Scott and
Representative(s) Bonner, Gay, Harvey,
Loucks and Moniz

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; providing for training of
2 coaches and athletic trainers and education of students,
3 parents and guardians regarding head injury and concussion
4 resulting from athletic activities; granting rulemaking
5 authority; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-4-701 through 21-4-703 are created
10 to read:

11

12

ARTICLE 7

13

SCHOOL ATHLETICS SAFETY

14

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21-4-701. School athletics safety; short title.

1

2 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "School
3 Athletics Safety Act."

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5 **21-4-702. Definitions.**

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7 (a) As used in the article:

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9 (i) "Academic year" means as defined in W.S.
10 21-16-1301(a)(ii);

11

12 (ii) "Athletic coach or athletic trainer" means
13 any paid or volunteer individual whose responsibilities
14 include coaching, athletic training or advising a school
15 athletic team or club;

16

17 (iii) "Head injury" means a trauma that leads to
18 an injury to the scalp, skull or brain;

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20 (iv) "School athletic event" means athletic
21 activities sanctioned by the Wyoming high school activities
22 association and school sponsored athletic activities in
23 middle or junior high school which directly correspond to

1 those high school activities sanctioned by the Wyoming high
2 school activities association;

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4 (v) "Student athlete" means a junior high
5 school, middle school or senior high school student who
6 engages in, is eligible to engage in or seeks to engage in
7 a school athletic event.

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9 **21-4-703. Safety of student athletes; prohibition on**
10 **participation; training; rules; consent to participate.**

11

12 (a) An athletic coach or athletic trainer shall not
13 allow a student athlete to participate in a school athletic
14 event on the same day that the student athlete meets one
15 (1) or both of the following criteria:

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17 (i) Exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors
18 consistent with a concussion or other head injury after a
19 coach or trainer, a school official or a student reports,
20 observes or suspects that the student athlete exhibiting
21 these signs, symptoms or behaviors has sustained a
22 concussion or other head injury; or

23

1 (ii) Has been diagnosed with a concussion or
2 other head injury.

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4 (b) An athletic coach or athletic trainer may allow a
5 student athlete who has been prohibited from participating
6 in a school athletic event pursuant to subsection (a) of
7 this section to participate in a school athletic event no
8 sooner than the day after the student athlete has received
9 a blow to the head or body and only after the student
10 athlete:

11

12 (i) No longer exhibits any sign, symptom or
13 behavior consistent with a concussion or other head injury;
14 and

15

16 (ii) Receives a medical release from a licensed
17 health care professional.

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19 (c) Each school district shall ensure that each
20 athletic coach or athletic trainer participating in school
21 athletic activities in the school district receives
22 training provided pursuant to subsection (d) of this
23 section.

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1 (d) The state board of education shall consult with
2 school districts and promulgate rules to establish:

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4 (i) Protocols and content consistent with
5 current medical knowledge and the guidelines of a
6 nationally recognized high school athletics organization
7 such as the national federation of high school associations
8 for training each athletic coach or athletic trainer
9 participating in school athletic events to:

10

11 (A) Understand the nature and risk of
12 concussion and other head injuries associated with athletic
13 activity; and

14

15 (B) Recognize signs, symptoms or behaviors
16 consistent with a concussion or other head injury when a
17 coach or trainer suspects or observes that a student
18 athlete has received a blow to the head or body.

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20 (ii) The nature and content of concussion and
21 other head injury information forms and educational
22 materials for, and the means of providing these forms and
23 materials to, athletic coaches or athletic trainers,
24 student athletes and student athletes' parents or guardians

1 regarding the nature and risk of concussion and other head
2 injuries resulting from athletic activity, including the
3 risk of continuing or returning to athletic activity after
4 a concussion or other head injury;

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6 (iii) The definition of health care professional
7 for purposes of paragraph (b)(ii) of this section.

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9 (e) At the beginning of each academic year, a school
10 district shall provide a concussion and other head injury
11 information form created pursuant to subsection (d) of this
12 section to a student athlete and the student athlete's
13 parent or guardian. The school district shall receive
14 signatures on the concussion and other head injury
15 information form from the student athlete and the student
16 athlete's parent or guardian before permitting the student
17 athlete to begin or continue participating in school
18 athletic events for that academic year.

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20 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2011.

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(END)