

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 905 **DATE:** April 19, 2011
Version: Second engrossment
Authors: Hamilton and others
Subject: Policies to protect young athletes from concussions
Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Proposes to require that young athletes participating in organized athletic activities through school or in another venue have access to information about the nature, risk, and effects of concussion. Establishes protocols for treating young athletes who show signs of sustaining a concussion.

- 1 Youth sports programs.** (a) Requires a city, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity for which a fee is charged to make information about the nature, risk, and effects of concussion accessible to coaches, officials, young athletes and their parents, consistent with information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Requires participating coaches and officials to complete an annual online training program on concussions that is available from the CDC. Requires a young athlete and that athlete's parent to sign and submit to a coach or other official a concussion information form.

(b) Requires a coach or official to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity when the athlete shows signs of sustaining a concussion.

(c) Precludes a young athlete who has been removed from an athletic activity under paragraph (b) from returning to the activity until the athlete no longer shows signs of sustaining a concussion, is evaluated by a trained and experienced medical provider, and, if needed, the provider has developed a plan to aid in the athlete's recovery.

(d) Indicates that failing to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity under this section does not give rise to liability.

(e) Provides that this section does not create any additional liability or new cause of action against specified entities and persons.

Makes this section effective September 1, 2011.

- 2 Concussion procedures.**

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the words concussion, provider, youth athlete, and youth athletic

activity for purposes of this section and the section on youth sports programs.

Subd. 2. School-sponsored sports. (a) Requires a sports governing body, including the Minnesota State High School League, to work with the education department to transmit information about the nature and risk of and procedures for a concussion to public and nonpublic coaches, officials, and young athletes and their parents that is consistent with information from the CDC.

(b) Requires sports governing bodies and the education department to provide access to the CDC's online training program on concussions. Requires coaches and officials annually to complete the online training program.

(c) Requires a young athlete and that athlete's parent to sign and submit to a coach or other official a concussion information form.

(d) Requires a coach or official to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity when the athlete shows signs of sustaining a concussion.

(e) Precludes a young athlete who has been removed from an athletic activity under paragraph (d) from returning to the activity until the athlete no longer shows signs of sustaining a concussion, is evaluated by a trained and experienced medical provider, and, if needed, the provider has developed a plan to aid in the athlete's recovery.

(f) Indicates that failing to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity under this section does not give rise to liability.

Makes this section effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.

- 3 Concussion awareness, safety, and protection.** Directs the Minnesota State High School League to make accessible to member high schools information about the nature and risk of concussion that is consistent with information from the CDC.

Makes this section effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.