

SCS HCS HB 300, 334 & 387 -- INTERSCHOLASTIC YOUTH SPORTS BRAIN INJURY PREVENTION ACT

This bill establishes the Interscholastic Youth Sports Brain Injury Prevention Act which requires, by December 31, 2011, the Department of Health and Senior Services to work with a statewide association of school boards, a statewide student athletic activities association, and an organization that specializes in support services, education, and advocacy for persons with brain injuries to establish rules which develop guidelines, information, and forms to educate coaches, student athletes, and their parents or guardians on the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury including continuing to play after a concussion or brain injury.

Every school district must annually distribute a concussion and brain injury information sheet to each youth athlete in the district's athletic program which must be signed by the athlete's parent or guardian and submitted to the school district prior to the youth athlete participating in any practice or competition.

A youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury must be removed from competition at that time and for at least 24 hours. He or she must not return to competition until being evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions under the guidelines developed by the department and receiving a written clearance from the provider to return to competition.

An annual report regarding the impact of student athlete concussions and head injuries and efforts that may be made to minimize damages from school sports injuries must be published by any statewide athletic organization with a public school district as a member and must be distributed to the Joint Committee on Education, the House of Representatives Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Senate Committee on Education or any other education committee designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The first report must be distributed by January 31, 2012, and made available to school districts and parents of students. A public school is prohibited from being a member of any statewide athletic organization which fails to publish the annual report.