

HB 646 -- YOUTH SPORTS BRAIN INJURY PREVENTION ACT

SPONSOR: Fitzwater (144)

This bill creates the "Youth Sports Brain Injury Prevention Act."

The bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services, in cooperation with health care providers and a statewide nonprofit organization to be named by the department, to make available to each municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity for which an activity fee is charged specified brain injury prevention information. The information must include guidelines for concussion management, pertinent information for individuals to recognize a possible concussion, and forms to educate coaches, youth athletes, and parents or guardians of youth athletes of the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury including continuing to play after concussion or brain injury. The primary focus of which is for the safety and protection of youth athletes.

On a yearly basis, each municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity for which an activity fee is charged must distribute a concussion and brain injury information form to each youth athlete participating in the athletic program and the form must be signed by the youth athlete's parent or guardian and submitted to the athletic activity governing body prior to the youth athlete's participation.

All participating coaches and game officials of youth contact or limited contact sports must complete initial online or in-person training and must obtain updated online or in-person training at least once every 36 months thereafter. The governing body or league administrator must maintain paper or electronic files of documentation of online or in-person training completed by each of their participating coaches and game officials.

The bill requires a youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury in a practice or game to be removed from competition at such time and for no less than 24 hours. A youth athlete who has been removed from play is prohibited from returning to competition until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of a concussion and receives written clearance to return to practice or competition from that health care provider.