



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

**Raised Bill No. 456**

LCO No. 2334

\*02334\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) For the school year  
2       commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, any person  
3       who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of  
4       Education and is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics shall  
5       complete an initial training course regarding concussions and head  
6       injuries, developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, prior to  
7       commencing the coaching assignment for the season of such school  
8       athletics. For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school  
9       year thereafter, a coach shall complete a refresher course, developed  
10      pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, not later  
11      than five years after completion of the initial training course, as a  
12      condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such coach. Such  
13      coach shall thereafter retake such refresher course at least once every  
14      five years as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such  
15      coach.
- 16      (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school

17 year thereafter, and after completion of the initial training course  
18 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, such coach shall  
19 annually review current and relevant information regarding  
20 concussions and head injuries, prepared by the State Board of  
21 Education, in consultation with the governing authority for intramural  
22 and interscholastic athletics, an appropriate organization representing  
23 licensed athletic trainers and an organization representing county  
24 medical associations, before the start of the coaching assignment for  
25 the season of such school athletics. Such annual review shall not be  
26 required in any year when such coach is required to complete the  
27 refresher course, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, for  
28 reissuance of his or her coaching permit.

29 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2010, the State Board of Education, in  
30 consultation with (A) the governing authority for intramural and  
31 interscholastic athletics, (B) an appropriate organization representing  
32 licensed athletic trainers, and (C) an organization representing county  
33 medical associations, shall develop a training course regarding  
34 concussions and head injuries. Such training course shall include, but  
35 not be limited to, (i) the recognition of the symptoms of a concussion  
36 or head injury, (ii) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for  
37 a person suspected of having a concussion or head injury, and (iii) the  
38 nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including the danger  
39 of continuing to play after sustaining a concussion or head injury and  
40 the proper method of allowing a student athlete who has sustained a  
41 concussion or head injury to return to athletic activity.

42 (2) On or before January 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, in  
43 consultation with the organizations described in subdivision (1) of this  
44 subsection, shall develop a refresher course regarding concussions and  
45 head injuries. Such refresher course shall include, but not be limited to,  
46 (A) an overview of key recognition and safety practices, (B) an update  
47 on medical developments in the field of concussion research and  
48 prevention, and (C) an update on new relevant federal, state and local  
49 laws and regulations.

50 (c) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching permit, in  
51 accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of section 10-145b of  
52 the general statutes, of any coach found to be in violation of this  
53 section.

54 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) (1) The coach of any  
55 intramural or interscholastic athletics shall immediately remove any  
56 student athlete participating in intramural or interscholastic athletics  
57 who (A) is observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent  
58 with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the  
59 head or body during a practice, game or competition, (B) is diagnosed  
60 with a concussion, or (C) is otherwise suspected of having sustained a  
61 concussion or head injury because such student athlete is observed to  
62 exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion  
63 regardless of when such concussion or head injury may have occurred.

64 (2) The coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in  
65 any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including,  
66 but not limited to, practices, games or competitions, sooner than  
67 twenty-four hours after such student athlete was so removed. The  
68 coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any  
69 supervised team activities involving physical exertion until such  
70 student athlete receives written clearance to participate in such  
71 supervised team activities involving physical exertion from a licensed  
72 health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of  
73 concussions.

74 (3) Following clearance pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
75 subsection, the coach shall not permit such student athlete to  
76 participate in any full, unrestricted supervised team activities without  
77 limitations on contact or physical exertion, including, but not limited  
78 to, practices, games or competitions, until such student athlete (A) no  
79 longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a  
80 concussion at rest or with exertion, and (B) receives written clearance  
81 to participate in such full, unrestricted supervised team activities from

82 a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and  
83 management of concussions.

84 (b) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching permit, in  
85 accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of section 10-145b of  
86 the general statutes, of any coach found to be in violation of this  
87 section.

88 (c) For purposes of this section, "licensed health care professional"  
89 means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general  
90 statutes, a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the  
91 general statutes, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
92 pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes or an athletic trainer  
93 licensed pursuant to chapter 375a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require coaches of intramural and interscholastic athletics to complete annual training regarding the recognition of and dangers associated with concussions; and to require that student athletes get medical clearance before returning to athletic activity after sustaining a concussion or head injury.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*