



***Substitute House Bill No. 5291***

***Special Act No. 18-15***

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGARDING THE SAFETY OF SPORTS HELMETS.***

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

Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2018*) (a) The Department of Public Health shall convene a working group to develop recommendations for creating a system for rating the safety of youth athletic protective headgear and for public disclosure of such protective headgear's safety rating.

(b) The working group convened pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include at least three members, one each of whom shall be chosen by the Commissioners of Consumer Protection, Education and Public Health, or their designees, and may include a representative from the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association, the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, the Parents Concussion Coalition or a helmet manufacturer, a chiropractor licensed under chapter 372 of the general statutes, an orthopedic sports physician or any other member the Department of Public Health deems necessary and relevant to carrying out the working group's duties under this section. All appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

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(c) The working group shall recommend, based on performance standards for youth athletic protective headgear, the data that should be collected for purposes of (1) developing a safety ratings system to identify which youth athletic protective headgear best protects against head injury, and (2) determining the best way to make such safety ratings available to the public to allow consumers to easily compare overall performance amongst different models of youth protective headgear.

(d) On or before January 1, 2019, the working group shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, education, children and consumer protection regarding its findings and recommendations.

Approved June 6, 2018