



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 5431

LCO No. 1362



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT REQUIRING EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS EDUCATION TRAINING FOR COACHES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-149b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "exertional heat illness" means an illness
4 resulting from engaging in physical activity in the heat, including, but
5 not limited to, heat cramps, heat syncope, heat exhaustion and heat
6 stroke; and (2) "heat syncope" means sudden dizziness, feeling faint and
7 sometimes fainting experienced after exercising in the heat.

8 [(a)] (b) (1) [For the school year commencing July 1, 2010, and each
9 school year thereafter, any] Any person who holds or is issued a
10 coaching permit by the State Board of Education and is a coach of
11 intramural or interscholastic athletics shall complete an initial training
12 course regarding (A) concussions, [developed or approved pursuant to
13 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section] and (B) for the school
14 year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter,
15 exertional heat illness, prior to commencing the coaching assignment for

16 the season of such school athletics. Such initial training course shall be
17 developed or approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of
18 this section.

19 (2) [For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school
20 year thereafter, any] Any coach who has completed the initial training
21 course [described in subdivision (1) of this subsection] regarding
22 concussions and, for the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each
23 school year thereafter, regarding exertional heat illness shall annually
24 review current and relevant information regarding concussions and
25 exertional heat illness, prepared or approved pursuant to subdivision
26 (2) of subsection [(b)] (c) of this section, prior to commencing the
27 coaching assignment for the season of such school athletics. Such annual
28 review shall not be required in any year when such coach is required to
29 complete [the] a refresher course, pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
30 subsection, for reissuance of his or her coaching permit.

31 (3) [For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
32 year thereafter, a] A coach shall complete a refresher course regarding
33 concussions and, for the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each
34 school year thereafter, regarding exertional heat illness, developed or
35 approved pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection [(b)] (c) of this
36 section, not later than five years after completion of the initial training
37 course, as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such
38 coach. Such coach shall thereafter retake such refresher course at least
39 once every five years as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching
40 permit to such coach.

41 [(b)] (c) (1) The State Board of Education, in consultation with (A) the
42 Commissioner of Public Health, (B) the governing authority for
43 intramural and interscholastic athletics, (C) an appropriate organization
44 representing licensed athletic trainers, and (D) an organization
45 representing county medical associations, shall develop or approve a
46 training course regarding concussions. On or before January 1, 2022,
47 said board, in consultation with the commissioner and the organizations
48 identified in subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision,

49 shall develop or approve a training course regarding exertional heat
50 illness. Such training [course] courses shall include, but not be limited
51 to, (i) the recognition of the symptoms of a concussion or an exertional
52 heat illness, (ii) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a
53 person suspected of having a concussion or an exertional heat illness,
54 and (iii) the nature and risk of concussions or exertional heat illness,
55 including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after
56 sustaining a concussion or an exertional heat illness and the proper
57 method of allowing a student athlete who has sustained a concussion or
58 an exertional heat illness to return to athletic activity.

59 (2) [On or before October 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the] The
60 State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of
61 Public Health and the organizations described in subparagraphs (B) to
62 (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall annually
63 develop or approve annual review materials regarding current and
64 relevant information [about] regarding concussions. On or before
65 October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, said board, in consultation
66 with the commissioner and such organizations, shall develop or
67 approve annual review materials regarding current and relevant
68 information regarding exertional heat illness.

69 (3) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
70 Commissioner of Public Health and the organizations described in
71 subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection,
72 shall develop or approve a refresher course regarding concussions and,
73 on or before January 1, 2023, regarding exertional heat illness. Such
74 refresher [course] courses shall include, but not be limited to, (A) an
75 overview of key recognition and safety practices, (B) an update on
76 medical developments and current best practices in the field of
77 concussion or exertional heat illness research, prevention and treatment,
78 (C) an update on new relevant federal, state and local laws and
79 regulations, and (D) for football coaches, current best practices
80 regarding coaching the sport of football, including, but not limited to,
81 frequency of games and full contact practices and scrimmages as
82 identified by the governing authority for intramural and interscholastic

83 athletics.

84 [(c) On or before January 1, 2015, the] (d) The State Board of
85 Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health and
86 the organizations described in subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
87 subdivision (1) of subsection [(b)] (c) of this section, shall develop or
88 approve a concussion education plan and, on or before January 1, 2022,
89 an exertional heat illness plan for use by local and regional boards of
90 education. Each local and regional board of education shall implement
91 such [plan] plans by utilizing written materials, online training or
92 videos or in-person training that shall address, at a minimum: (1) The
93 recognition of signs or symptoms of concussion or exertional heat
94 illness, (2) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person
95 suspected of sustaining a concussion or an exertional heat illness, (3) the
96 nature and risks of concussions or exertional heat illness, including the
97 danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after sustaining a
98 concussion, (4) the proper procedures for allowing a student athlete
99 who has sustained a concussion or an exertional heat illness to return to
100 athletic activity, and (5) current best practices in the prevention and
101 treatment of a concussion or an exertional heat illness.

102 [(d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each] (e) Each
103 school year, [thereafter,] each local and regional board of education shall
104 prohibit a student athlete from participating in any intramural or
105 interscholastic athletic activity unless the student athlete, and a parent
106 or guardian of such student athlete, (1) reads written materials, (2) views
107 online training or videos, or (3) attends in-person training regarding the
108 concussion education plan developed or approved pursuant to
109 subsection [(c)] (d) of this section. For the school year commencing July
110 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of
111 education shall prohibit a student athlete from participating in any
112 intramural or interscholastic activity unless the student athlete, and a
113 parent or guardian of such student athlete, (A) reads written material,
114 (B) views online training or videos, or (C) attends in-person training
115 regarding the exertional heat illness plan developed or approved
116 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

117 [(e) (1) On or before July 1, 2015, the] (f) (1) The State Board of
 118 Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health and
 119 the organizations described in subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
 120 subdivision (1) of subsection [(b)] (c) of this section, shall develop or
 121 approve an informed consent form to distribute to the parents and legal
 122 guardians of student athletes involved in intramural or interscholastic
 123 athletic activities regarding concussions and, on or before July 1, 2022,
 124 exertional heat illness. Such informed consent form shall include, at a
 125 minimum, (A) a summary of the concussion and exertional heat illness
 126 education [plan] plans developed or approved pursuant to subsection
 127 [(c)] (d) of this section, and (B) a summary of the applicable local or
 128 regional board of education's policies regarding concussions and
 129 exertional heat illness.

130 (2) [For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each] Each
 131 school year, [thereafter,] each school shall provide each participating
 132 student athlete's parent or legal guardian with a copy of the informed
 133 consent form developed or approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
 134 subsection and obtain such parent's or legal guardian's signature,
 135 attesting to the fact that such parent or legal guardian has received a
 136 copy of such form and authorizes the student athlete to participate in
 137 the athletic activity.

138 [(f)] (g) The State Board of Education may revoke the coaching
 139 permit, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (i) of section 10-
 140 145b, of any coach found to be in violation of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-149b

Statement of Purpose:

To require exertional heat illness training for coaches.

[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.]

