



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6511

January Session, 2021



AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR YOUTH SPORTS COACHES, TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 21a-432 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity
5 involving participants of not less than seven years of age, except as
6 provided in subsections (d) to (f), inclusive, of this section and not more
7 than nineteen years of age, who (A) (i) engage in an organized athletic
8 game or competition against another team, club or entity or in practice
9 or preparation for an organized game or competition against another
10 team, club or entity, or (ii) attend an organized athletic camp or clinic
11 the purpose of which is to train, instruct or prepare such participants to
12 engage in an organized athletic game or competition, and (B) (i) pay a
13 fee to participate in such organized athletic game or competition or
14 attend such camp or clinic, or (ii) whose cost to participate in such
15 athletic game or competition or attend such camp or clinic is sponsored
16 by a municipality, business or nonprofit organization. "Youth athletic
17 activity" does not include any college or university athletic activity, or
18 an athletic activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson;

19 and

20 (2) "Operator" means any municipality, business or nonprofit
21 organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes or otherwise
22 oversees any youth athletic activity but shall not include any
23 municipality, business or nonprofit organization solely providing access
24 to, or use of, any field, court or other recreational area, whether for
25 compensation or not.

26 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, each
27 operator of a youth athletic activity shall make available a written or
28 electronic statement regarding concussions to each youth athlete and a
29 parent or legal guardian of each youth athlete participating in the youth
30 athletic activity. Such written or electronic statement shall be made
31 available upon registration of each youth athlete and shall be consistent
32 with the most recent information provided by the National Centers for
33 Disease Control and Prevention regarding concussions. Such written or
34 electronic statement shall include educational content addressing, at a
35 minimum: (1) The recognition of signs or symptoms of a concussion, (2)
36 the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected
37 of sustaining a concussion, (3) the nature and risks of concussions,
38 including the danger of continuing to engage in youth athletic activity
39 after sustaining a concussion, and (4) the proper procedures for
40 allowing a youth athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to
41 athletic activity.

42 (c) No operator, or designee of such operator, shall be subject to civil
43 liability for failing to make available the written or electronic statement
44 regarding concussions pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

45 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
46 for purposes of this subsection and subsections (e) and (f) of this section,
47 youth athletic activity also includes an organized athletic activity
48 involving participants less than seven years of age. On and after October
49 1, 2022, an operator shall require any prospective employee, except as
50 provided in subsection (f) of this section, who is eighteen years of age or

51 older and applying for a position as a coach or instructor of a youth
52 athletic activity or as an athletic trainer, licensed under chapter 375a, to
53 submit to a comprehensive background check, including state and
54 national criminal history records checks and a check of the state child
55 abuse registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k. The criminal
56 history records check required pursuant to this subsection shall be
57 conducted (1) in accordance with section 29-17a, or (2) by a third party
58 provider of criminal history record checks, including, but not limited to,
59 criminal history record checks conducted through a centralized
60 disciplinary database established by an independent national safe sport
61 organization. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to an
62 athletic coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics who is employed
63 by a local or regional board of education, provided such board satisfies
64 the requirements relating to state and national criminal history records
65 checks applicable to employees of such board pursuant to section 10-
66 221d. Any criminal history background check conducted pursuant to
67 this subsection shall be completed not later than five business days after
68 receipt of the request for such background check. Pending completion
69 of all background check components described in this subsection, a
70 prospective employee may begin work on a provisional basis, provided
71 such prospective employee is supervised at all times by an employee
72 who was subjected to a background check described in this subsection
73 within the previous five years.

74 (e) The comprehensive background checks required pursuant to
75 subsection (d) of this section shall be conducted at least once every five
76 years for each coach, instructor or athletic trainer employed by an
77 operator.

78 (f) A person who is eighteen years of age or older and applies for a
79 position as a coach, instructor or athletic trainer for a youth athletic
80 activity in the state shall not be required to submit to such
81 comprehensive background checks if such person (1) is an employee of
82 an operator of a youth athletic activity in the state, or has not been
83 separated from employment as a coach, instructor or athletic trainer for

84 a youth athletic activity in the state for a period of more than one
85 hundred eighty days, and (2) has successfully completed such
86 comprehensive background checks in the previous five years. Nothing
87 in this section prohibits an operator from requiring that a person
88 applying for a position as a coach, instructor or athletic trainer submit
89 to comprehensive background checks more than once during a five-year
90 period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	21a-432

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*