



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6561

LCO No. 1499



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports
3 leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs. The task
4 force shall (1) analyze (A) the efficacy and safety of the use of protective
5 neck guards in youth, intramural and interscholastic ice hockey, and (B)
6 best practices for injury prevention and safety protocols and compare
7 such best practices to existing practices across the state in order to
8 identify areas for improvement; and (2) make recommendations for the
9 implementation of a state-wide system of injury prevention practices
10 and safety protocol review, including, but not limited to, that (A) such
11 leagues and programs shall make public their injury prevention
12 practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices
13 and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to
14 the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Department of Public
15 Health shall meet annually with representatives of youth sports leagues
16 and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs to discuss best

17 practices for injury prevention and safety protocols.

18 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
20 one of whom has expertise in sports medicine and one of whom has
21 expertise in neuroscience;

22 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
23 whom has expertise in sports psychology and one of whom is a
24 representative of a municipal youth sports league;

25 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
26 Representatives, one of whom is a member of the General Assembly and
27 one of whom is a representative of a municipal parks and recreation
28 department that is a member of a state-wide parks and recreation
29 association;

30 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
31 is a representative of a nonprofit organization that serves as a governing
32 body for interscholastic athletic activities and one of whom is a
33 representative of a state-wide association of athletic trainers;

34 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
35 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of a state-wide
36 association of athletic directors and one of whom is a representative of
37 a state-wide association of high school coaches;

38 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
39 is a member of the General Assembly and one of whom is a
40 representative of a state-wide association of independent schools;

41 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
42 designee; and

43 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

44 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later

45 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
46 be filled by the appointing authority.

47 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
48 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force
49 from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall
50 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
51 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

52 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
53 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
54 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

55 (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
56 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (A) of
57 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
59 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
60 of the general statutes.

61 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
62 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (B) of
63 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and subdivision (2) of
64 subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committee of the
65 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
66 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
67 The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits a report
68 pursuant to this subsection or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

69 *Sec. 2. (Effective January 1, 2024)* Any youth athletic program operated
70 by a private entity may adopt the recommendations of the task force to
71 study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports
72 leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs
73 established pursuant to section 1 of this act in developing such
74 program's injury prevention practices and safety protocols.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletics.

[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.]