

HCS HB 300, 334 & 387 -- INTERSCHOLASTIC YOUTH SPORTS BRAIN INJURY PREVENTION ACT (Gatschenberger)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Health Care Policy

This substitute establishes the Interscholastic Youth Sports Brain Injury Prevention Act which requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to work with a statewide association of school boards, a statewide student athletic activities association, and an organization named by the department that provides support services for brain injuries to develop by December 31, 2011, guidelines, information, and forms to educate coaches, student athletes, and their parents or guardians on the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury, including information on continuing to play after a concussion or brain injury. Every school district must annually distribute a concussion and brain injury information sheet to each youth athlete in a district athletic program which must be signed by the athlete's parent or guardian and submitted to the school district prior to the youth athlete participating in a practice or competition.

A youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury must be removed from competition at that time and for at least 24 hours. He or she must not return to competition until being evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions, under the guidelines developed by the department, and receiving a written clearance from the provider to return to competition. A health care provider who volunteers and authorizes a youth athlete to return to play will not be civilly liable for damages resulting from any act or omission in rendering the care except in the case of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.