

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
5 10-20.53 and 34-18.45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.53 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.53. Student athletes; concussions and head
8 injuries:

9 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

10 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported
11 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in
12 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as
14 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related
15 concussions occur in the United States each year. A
16 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
17 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the
18 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are
19 significant when a concussion or head injury is not
20 properly evaluated and managed.

21 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
22 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
23 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or

1 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
2 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
3 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
4 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
5 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

6 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of
7 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable
8 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly
9 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized
10 return-to-play standards for concussions and head
11 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
12 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical
13 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

14 (b) Each school board shall adopt a policy regarding
15 student athlete concussions and head injuries that is in
16 compliance with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the
17 Illinois High School Association. Information on the school
18 board's concussion and head injury policy must be a part of any
19 agreement, contract, code, or other written instrument that a
20 school district requires a student athlete and his or her
21 parents or guardian to sign before participating in practice or
22 interscholastic competition.

23 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
24 available to all school districts, including elementary school
25 districts, education materials, such as visual presentations
26 and other written materials, that describe the nature and risk

1 of concussions and head injuries. Each school district shall
2 use education materials provided by the Illinois High School
3 Association to educate coaches, student athletes, and parents
4 and guardians of student athletes about the nature and risk of
5 concussions and head injuries, including continuing play after
6 a concussion or head injury.

7 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.45 new)

8 Sec. 34-18.45. Student athletes; concussions and head
9 injuries.

10 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

11 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported
12 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in
13 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for
14 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as
15 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related
16 concussions occur in the United States each year. A
17 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
18 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the
19 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are
20 significant when a concussion or head injury is not
21 properly evaluated and managed.

22 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
23 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
24 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
25 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result

1 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
2 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
3 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
4 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

5 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of
6 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable
7 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly
8 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized
9 return-to-play standards for concussions and head
10 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
11 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical
12 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

13 (b) The board shall adopt a policy regarding student
14 athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance
15 with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High
16 School Association. Information on the board's concussion and
17 head injury policy must be a part of any agreement, contract,
18 code, or other written instrument that the school district
19 requires a student athlete and his or her parents or guardian
20 to sign before participating in practice or interscholastic
21 competition.

22 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
23 available to the school district education materials, such as
24 visual presentations and other written materials, that
25 describe the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries.
26 The school district shall use education materials provided by

1 the Illinois High School Association to educate coaches,
2 student athletes, and parents and guardians of student athletes
3 about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries,
4 including continuing play after a concussion or head injury.