

SB0778



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB0778

Introduced 2/4/2015, by Sen. Ira I. Silverstein

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.54
105 ILCS 5/34-18.46

Amends the School Code. Provides that a school board's concussion and head injury policy must require that a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game be removed from play at that time. Requires the policy to provide that a student athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries and the student athlete receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider.

LRB099 06072 NHT 26126 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 changing Sections
5 10-20.54 and 34-18.46 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.54)

7 Sec. 10-20.54. 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. In addition, the policy shall
18 require that a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a
19 concussion or head injury in a practice or game be removed from
20 play at that time. The policy shall provide that a student
21 athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play
22 until the student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health
23 care provider trained in the evaluation and management of
24 concussions and head injuries and the student athlete receives
25 written clearance to return to play from that health care
26 provider.

1 Information on the school board's concussion and head
2 injury policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code,
3 or other written instrument that a school district requires a
4 student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign
5 before participating in practice or interscholastic
6 competition.

7 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
8 available to all school districts, including elementary school
9 districts, education materials, such as visual presentations
10 and other written materials, that describe the nature and risk
11 of concussions and head injuries. Each school district shall
12 use education materials provided by the Illinois High School
13 Association to educate coaches, student athletes, and parents
14 and guardians of student athletes about the nature and risk of
15 concussions and head injuries, including continuing play after
16 a concussion or head injury.

17 (Source: P.A. 97-204, eff. 7-28-11; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.46)

19 Sec. 34-18.46. Student athletes; concussions and head
20 injuries.

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

22 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported
23 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in
24 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for
25 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as

1 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related
2 concussions occur in the United States each year. A
3 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
4 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the
5 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are
6 significant when a concussion or head injury is not
7 properly evaluated and managed.

8 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
9 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
10 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
11 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
12 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
13 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
14 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
15 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

16 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of
17 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable
18 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly
19 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized
20 return-to-play standards for concussions and head
21 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
22 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical
23 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

24 (b) The board shall adopt a policy regarding student
25 athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance
26 with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High

1 School Association. In addition, the policy shall require that
2 a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion
3 or head injury in a practice or game be removed from play at
4 that time. The policy shall provide that a student athlete who
5 has been removed from play may not return to play until the
6 student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider
7 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and
8 head injuries and the student athlete receives written
9 clearance to return to play from that health care provider.

10 Information on the board's concussion and head injury
11 policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code, or
12 other written instrument that the school district requires a
13 student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign
14 before participating in practice or interscholastic
15 competition.

16 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
17 available to the school district education materials, such as
18 visual presentations and other written materials, that
19 describe the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries.
20 The school district shall use education materials provided by
21 the Illinois High School Association to educate coaches,
22 student athletes, and parents and guardians of student athletes
23 about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries,
24 including continuing play after a concussion or head injury.

25 (Source: P.A. 97-204, eff. 7-28-11; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12.)