

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 90

**SESSION:** 2011 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Policies to protect young athletes from concussions

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## Overview

This act requires young athletes participating in organized athletic activities through school or in another venue to have access to information about the nature, risk, and effects of concussion. Establishes protocols for treating young athletes who show signs of sustaining a concussion.

### Section

- 1 Youth sports programs.** (a) Requires a city, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity for which a fee is charged to make information about the nature, risk, and effects of concussion accessible to coaches, officials, young athletes and their parents, consistent with information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Requires participating coaches and officials to receive periodic training on concussions available on the CDC Web site.
- (b) Requires a coach or official to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity when the athlete shows signs of sustaining a concussion.
- (c) Precludes a young athlete who has been removed from an athletic activity under paragraph (b) from returning to the activity until the athlete no longer shows signs of sustaining a concussion and is evaluated by a trained and experienced medical provider who gives the youth athlete written permission to return.
- (d) Indicates that failing to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity under this section does not give rise to liability.
- (e) Provides that this section does not create any additional liability or new cause of action against specified entities and persons.

(f) Defines municipality to mean a home rule charter city, a statutory city, or a town.

Makes this section effective September 1, 2011.

## 2 **Concussion procedures.**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines the words concussion, provider, youth athlete, and youth athletic activity for purposes of this section and the section on youth sports programs.

**Subd. 2. School-sponsored sports.** (a) Requires a sports governing body, including the Minnesota State High School League, to work with public and nonpublic coaches, officials, and young athletes and their parents to make available information about the nature and risk of and procedures for a concussion that is consistent with information from the CDC.

(b) Requires sports governing bodies to provide access to the CDC's online training program on concussions. Requires coaches and officials to periodically complete the online training program.

(c) Requires consent-to-play forms to include information about concussions.

(d) Requires a coach or official to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity when the athlete shows signs of sustaining a concussion.

(e) Precludes a young athlete who has been removed from an athletic activity under paragraph (d) from returning to the activity until the athlete no longer shows signs of sustaining a concussion, is evaluated by a trained and experienced medical provider who gives the youth athlete written permission to return.

(f) Indicates that failing to remove a young athlete from an athletic activity under this section does not give rise to liability.

(g) Provides that this section does not create any additional liability or new cause of action against specified entities and persons.

Makes this section effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.

## 3 **Federal, state, and local requirement.** Requires charter schools that provide school-sponsored youth athletic activities to comply with the concussion procedures under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.38.

## 4 **Concussion awareness, safety, and protection.** Allows the Minnesota State High School League to adopt a concussion awareness, safety, and protection policy that exceeds the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.38.

Makes this section effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.