

File Number: H.F. 1714
Version: First engrossment

Date: March 7, 2017

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Subject: Youth sports concussion working group

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Overview

This bill establishes a youth sports concussion working group to study brain injuries in youth sports, and funds up to five brain health pilot programs to test ways to improve brain health in youth sports.

Section

1 Youth sports concussion working group. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a working group to assess the causes and incidence of brain injuries in youth sports and best practices for preventing, evaluating, identifying, and treating brain injuries in youth sports.

Subd. 1. Working group established; duties and membership. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a youth sports concussion working group of up to 30 members. Directs the group to be formed through nominations of individuals with specified experience, and specifies what the working group must study and evaluate. Requires the working group to be geographically and professionally diverse, and provides that working group members shall not be compensated.

Subd. 2. Working group goals defined. Lists specific tasks for the working group, including gathering data on topics related to youth sports-related concussions; reviewing youth sports rules and concussion education policies; identifying pilot projects related to concussions in youth sports; and identifying barriers to obtaining better brain health outcomes.

Subd. 3. Voluntary participation; no new reporting requirements created. Specifies that participation in the working group is voluntary and the study shall create no new reporting requirements.

Section

Subd. 4. Report. Requires the working group to submit an interim report and a final report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and education, proposing a Minnesota model for reducing brain injury in youth sports. Specifies recommendations the report must include.

Subd. 5. Sunset. Sunsets the working group the day after submitting the final report required in subdivision 4, or January 15, 2020, whichever is earlier.

2 Brain health pilot programs. Directs the commissioner to award grants to up to five pilot programs to improve brain health in youth sports, using a request for proposal process. Requires working group members to be included in scoring proposals unless the member has a financial interest in the proposal. Requires at least one program to be funded in each area of the state. Requires programs to be funded for one year, and requires the commissioner to report to the health care policy and finance committees in the legislature on the progress and outcomes of the programs.

3 Appropriations; youth sports concussion working group and brain health pilot programs. Appropriates \$450,000 in fiscal year 2018 to the commissioner of health. Of this amount:

- \$150,000 is for the youth sports concussion working group; and
- \$300,000 is to fund brain health pilot programs.