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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 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 study the 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 by requesting nominations of individuals with specified experience, and lists items 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. Study 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 commissioner 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 Pilot programs. Directs the commissioner to select up to five pilot programs to improve brain health in youth sports. Requires the proposals to be reviewed by the working group, and lists areas the programs selected for funding must address. Requires at least one program to be funded in each area of the state. Requires programs to be funded for one fiscal 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 study. Appropriates money to the commissioner of health as follows in fiscal year 2018:

- \$450,000 is for the youth sports concussion study in section 1;
- \$150,000 is for the statewide study of concussion incidence rates and the study of implementation of concussion education requirements and procedures for youth sports; and
- \$300,000 is to fund pilot programs in section 2.