

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 455—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing athletics in public schools. (BDR 34-1137)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association and the board of trustees of each school district to adopt policies concerning the prevention and treatment of injuries to the head sustained by pupils while participating in sports and other athletic activities and events; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the county school districts to form a nonprofit
2 association to be known as the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association for the
3 purposes of controlling, supervising and regulating all interscholastic athletic
4 events and other interscholastic events in the public schools. (NRS 386.420-
5 386.470) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Association to adopt a policy concerning
6 the prevention and treatment of injuries to the head which may occur during a
7 pupil's participation in interscholastic activities and events, including, without
8 limitation, concussion of the brain. The policy must require that a pupil who
9 sustains or is suspected of sustaining an injury to the head while participating in
10 such an activity or event: (1) be immediately removed from the activity or event;
11 and (2) may not return to the activity or event unless the parent or legal guardian of
12 the pupil provides a written statement from a provider of health care indicating that
13 the pupil is medically cleared to participate and the date on which the pupil may
14 return to the activity or event. A pupil who participates in interscholastic activities
15 and events and his or her parent or legal guardian must sign a form acknowledging
16 that they have received a copy of the policy and understand its terms and conditions
17 before the pupil's participation in the activity or event and must sign the form on an
18 annual basis thereafter. **Section 2** of this bill requires the board of trustees of each
19 school district to adopt a similar policy for the participation of pupils in competitive
20 sports within the school district which are not governed by the Association.



WHEREAS, A concussion is a brain injury that results from a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body which causes the brain to move rapidly in the skull and which disrupts normal brain function; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services estimates that as many as 3.8 million concussions occur each year in the United States which are related to participation in sports and other recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, Children who continue to participate in an athletic activity while suffering from a concussion or suffering from the symptoms of an injury to the head are at a greater risk for catastrophic injury to the brain or even death; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring that a child who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other injury to the head receives the appropriate medical care before returning to an athletic activity will significantly reduce the child's risk of sustaining greater injury; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 386 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association shall adopt a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of injuries to the head which may occur during a pupil's participation in interscholastic activities and events, including, without limitation, a concussion of the brain. The policy must provide information concerning the nature and risk of injuries to the head which may occur during the pupil's participation in interscholastic activities and events, including, without limitation, the risks associated with continuing to participate in the activity or event after sustaining such an injury.

2. The policy adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must require that if a pupil sustains or is suspected of sustaining an injury to the head while participating in an interscholastic activity or event, the pupil:

(a) Must be immediately removed from the activity or event; and

(b) May return to the activity or event if the parent or legal guardian of the pupil provides a signed statement of a provider of health care indicating that the pupil is medically cleared for participation in the activity or event and the date on which the pupil may return to the activity or event.



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3. Before a pupil participates in an interscholastic activity or event, and on an annual basis thereafter, the pupil and his or her parent or legal guardian:

(a) Must be provided with a copy of the policy adopted pursuant to subsection 1; and

(b) Must sign a statement on a form prescribed by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association acknowledging that the pupil and his or her parent or guardian have read and understand the terms and conditions of the policy.

4. As used in this section, "provider of health care" means a physician licensed under chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, a physical therapist licensed under chapter 640 of NRS or an athletic trainer licensed under chapter 640B of NRS.

Sec. 2. Chapter 392 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. For those competitive sports not governed by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association pursuant to NRS 386.420 to 386.470, inclusive, and section 1 of this act, the board of trustees of each school district shall adopt a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of injuries to the head which may occur during a pupil's participation in competitive sports within the school district, including, without limitation, a concussion of the brain. To the extent practicable, the policy must be consistent with the policy adopted by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association pursuant to section 1 of this act. The policy must provide information concerning the nature and risk of injuries to the head which may occur during a pupil's participation in competitive sports, including, without limitation, the risks associated with continuing to participate in competitive sports after sustaining such an injury.

2. The policy adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must require that if a pupil sustains or is suspected of sustaining an injury to the head while participating in competitive sports, the pupil:

(a) Must be immediately removed from the competitive sport; and

(b) May return to competitive sports if the parent or legal guardian of the pupil provides a signed statement of a provider of health care indicating that the pupil is medically cleared for participation in the competitive sport and the date on which the pupil may return to the competitive sport.

3. Before a pupil participates in competitive sports within a school district, and on an annual basis thereafter, the pupil and his or her parent or legal guardian:

(a) Must be provided with a copy of the policy adopted pursuant to subsection 1; and



1 ***(b) Must sign a statement on a form prescribed by the board of***
2 ***trustees acknowledging that the pupil and his or her parent or***
3 ***guardian have read and understand the terms and conditions of***
4 ***the policy.***

5 ***4. As used in this section, “provider of health care” means a***
6 ***physician licensed under chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, a physical***
7 ***therapist licensed under chapter 640 of NRS or an athletic trainer***
8 ***licensed under chapter 640B of NRS.***

9 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

