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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, Lombardo, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: January 18, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-91-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-91 entitled "School and
2 Youth Programs Concussion Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-91-3. School district's guidelines to be developed and implemented.**

4 (a) The department of education and the department of health shall work in concert with
5 the Rhode Island Interscholastic League to develop and promulgate guidelines to inform and
6 educate coaches, teachers, school nurses, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the
7 nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including continuing to play after concussion or
8 head injury. A concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the
9 youth athlete and the athlete's parent and/or guardian prior to the youth athlete's return to practice
10 or competition.

11 (b) School districts are required to use training materials made available by the United
12 States Center for Disease Control and Prevention entitled "Heads Up: Concussion in the High
13 School Sports/Concussion in Youth Sports" and any updates or amendments thereto, or training
14 materials substantively and substantially similar thereto. The department of education shall post
15 training materials made available by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the
16 Rhode Island Interscholastic League on its website. All coaches and volunteers involved in a
17 youth sport or activity covered by this chapter must complete a training course and a refresher
18 course annually thereafter in concussions and traumatic brain injuries. All school nurses must
19 complete a training course and an annual refresher course in concussions and traumatic brain

1 injuries. Teachers and teachers' aides are strongly encouraged to complete the training course in
2 concussions and traumatic brain injuries. Training may consist of videos, classes, and any other
3 generally accepted mode and medium of providing information.

4 (c) School districts are encouraged to have all student athletes perform baseline
5 neuropsychological testing, computerized or otherwise. Parents and/or guardians shall be
6 provided with information as to the risk of concussion and/or traumatic brain injuries prior to the
7 start of every sport season and they shall sign an acknowledgement as to their receipt of such
8 information.

9 (d) A youth athlete, who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a
10 practice or game, shall be removed from competition at that time.

11 (e) A youth athlete, who has been removed from play, may not return to play until the
12 athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician who may consult with an athletic trainer, all of whom
13 shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. The athlete must receive
14 written clearance to return to play from that licensed physician.

15 (f) All school districts are ~~encouraged~~ required to have an athletic trainer, a nurse or
16 similarly trained person, who is trained in concussion symptom recognition and evaluation, at all
17 recreational and athletic events addressed by this statute.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

1 This act would refine the law on guidelines for concussions at school and youth programs
2 so that an adult trained in recognizing the symptoms of a concussion is required to be present
3 during all events.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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