

**Concussion Sections (sections 114-115) of Bill 1502:
AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2017 CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

Sec. 114. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity involving participants of not less than seven years of age and not more than nineteen years of age, who (A) (i) engage in an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club or entity or in practice or preparation for an organized game or competition against another team, club or entity, or (ii) attend an organized athletic camp or clinic the purpose of which is to train, instruct or prepare such participants to engage in an organized athletic game or competition, and (B) (i) pay a fee to participate in such organized athletic game or competition or attend such camp or clinic, or (ii) whose cost to participate in such athletic game or competition or attend such camp or clinic is sponsored by a municipality, business or nonprofit organization. "Youth athletic activity" does not include any college or university athletic activity, or an athletic activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson; and

(2) "Operator" means any municipality, business or nonprofit organization that conducts, coordinates, organizes or otherwise oversees any youth athletic activity but shall not include any municipality, business or nonprofit organization solely providing access to, or use of, any field, court or other recreational area, whether for compensation or not.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, each operator of a youth athletic activity shall make available a written or electronic statement regarding concussions to each youth athlete and a parent or legal guardian of each youth athlete participating in the youth athletic activity. Such written or electronic statement shall be made available upon registration of each youth athlete and shall be consistent with the most recent information provided by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding concussions. Such written or electronic statement shall include educational content addressing, at a minimum: (1) The recognition of signs or symptoms of a concussion, (2) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of sustaining a concussion, (3) the nature and risks of concussions,

including the danger of continuing to engage in youth athletic activity after sustaining a concussion, and (4) the proper procedures for allowing a youth athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity.

(c) No operator, or designee of such operator, shall be subject to civil liability for failing to make available the written or electronic statement regarding concussions pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 115. Subsection (a) of section 10-149b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, any person who holds or is issued a coaching permit by the State Board of Education and is a coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics shall complete an initial training course regarding concussions, [which are a type of brain injury,] developed or approved pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the season of such school athletics.

(2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year thereafter, any coach who has completed the initial training course described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall annually review current and relevant information regarding concussions, prepared or approved pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the season of such school athletics. Such annual review shall not be required in any year when such coach is required to complete the refresher course, pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, for reissuance of his or her coaching permit.

(3) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, a coach shall complete a refresher course, developed or approved pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, not later than five years after completion of the initial training course, as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such coach. Such coach shall thereafter retake such refresher course at least once every five years as a condition of the reissuance of a coaching permit to such coach.

Summary:

§§ 114-115 — CONCUSSION INFORMATION FOR YOUTH ATHLETES

The bill requires youth athletic activity operators, beginning by January 1, 2016, to annually make a written or electronic statement on concussions available to every youth participating in a youth athletic activity and his or her parent or legal guardian.

The operator must make the statement available when the youth registers. The statement must be consistent with current information provided by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on concussions and include information on:

1. concussion signs or symptom recognition,
2. how to obtain proper medical treatment for someone suspected of sustaining a concussion,
3. the nature of concussions and their risks, including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after sustaining a concussion, and
4. proper procedures for allowing the athlete who sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity.

Under the bill, no operator or operator's designee is subject to civil liability for failing to make the written or electronic statement regarding concussions available, as required by the bill.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015