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SENATE BILL 1

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL ATHLETICS SAFETY; ESTABLISHING SAFETY
PROTOCOLS AND EDUCATION REGARDING CONCUSSION AND OTHER HEAD
INJURIES RESULTING FROM ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CONCUSSION OR OTHER HEAD INJURY--PROTOCOLS
TO BE USED BY COACHES FOR CONCUSSIONS OR HEAD INJURIES RECEIVED
BY STUDENTS IN SCHOOL ATHLETIC EVENTS--TRAINING OF COACHES--
INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO COACHES, STUDENT ATHLETES AND
STUDENT ATHLETES' PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.--

A. A coach shall not allow a student athlete to
participate in a school athletic event on the same day that the
student athlete:

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underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (1) exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors
2 consistent with a concussion or other head injury after a
3 coach, a school official or a student athlete reports, observes
4 or suspects that the student athlete exhibiting these signs,
5 symptoms or behaviors has sustained a concussion or other head
6 injury; or

7 (2) has been diagnosed with a concussion or
8 other head injury.

9 B. A coach may allow a student athlete who has been
10 prohibited from participating in a school athletic event
11 pursuant to Subsection A of this section to participate in a
12 school athletic event no sooner than the day after the student
13 athlete has received a blow to the head or body and only after
14 the student athlete:

15 (1) no longer exhibits any sign, symptom or
16 behavior consistent with a concussion or other head injury; and

17 (2) receives a medical release from a licensed
18 health care professional.

19 C. Each school district shall ensure that each
20 coach participating in school athletic activities in the school
21 district receives training provided pursuant to Paragraph (1)
22 of Subsection D of this section.

23 D. The New Mexico activities association shall
24 consult with school districts and promulgate rules to
25 establish:

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1 (1) protocols and content consistent with
2 current medical knowledge for training each coach participating
3 in school athletic events to:

4 (a) understand the nature and risk of
5 concussion and other head injuries associated with athletic
6 activity; and

7 (b) recognize signs, symptoms or
8 behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury
9 when a coach suspects or observes that a student athlete has
10 received a blow to the head or body; and

11 (2) the nature and content of concussion and
12 other head injury information forms and educational materials
13 for, and the means of providing these forms and materials to,
14 coaches, student athletes and student athletes' parents or
15 guardians regarding the nature and risk of concussion and other
16 head injuries resulting from athletic activity, including the
17 risk of continuing or returning to athletic activity after a
18 concussion or other head injury.

19 E. At the beginning of each academic year, a school
20 district shall provide a concussion and other head injury
21 information form created pursuant to Subsection D of this
22 section to a student athlete and the student athlete's parent
23 or guardian. The school district shall receive signatures on
24 the concussion and other head injury information form from the
25 student athlete and the student athlete's parent or guardian

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1 before permitting the student athlete to begin or continue
2 participating in school athletic events for that academic year.

3 F. As used in this section:

4 (1) "academic year" means any consecutive
5 period of two semesters, three quarters or other comparable
6 units commencing with the fall term each year;

7 (2) "head injury" means a trauma that leads to
8 an injury to the scalp, skull or brain;

9 (3) "New Mexico activities association" means
10 a nonprofit organization that regulates interscholastic
11 programs for junior and senior high schools in New Mexico;

12 (4) "school athletic event" means a junior or
13 senior high school athletic event that the New Mexico
14 activities association regulates; and

15 (5) "student athlete" means a junior or senior
16 high school student who engages in, is eligible to engage in or
17 seeks to engage in a school athletic event."