

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 200

PRINTER'S NO. 1332

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

February 1, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Browne

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to EDUCATION, Feb. 1, 2011

Reported as amended, Feb. 8, 2011

First consideration, Feb. 8, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 14, 2011

Re-reported as amended, June 14, 2011

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 200 establishes a freestanding act entitled the Safety in Youth Sports Act.

The bill requires the Department of Health and the Department of Education to develop and post on their Internet websites guidelines and other relevant materials to educate students participating in athletics and their parents or guardians and coaches about the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including risks associated with continuing to play or practice after an injury.

The bill requires that a student and the student's parent or guardian annually, prior to allowing the child to participate in an athletic activity, sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of concussion and head injury informational materials.

The bill allows schools to hold informational meetings prior to the start of each athletic season concerning concussions and other head injuries.

The bill requires a student who exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or head injury while participating in an athletic activity to be removed by the coach from play. It also provides that the student shall not return to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared to return in writing by a licensed or certified health care professional whose scope of practice includes the management and evaluation of concussions.

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The bill requires schools to establish penalties for coaches who fail to remove students from play after exhibiting signs of a concussion or head injury or allow them to participate prior to being cleared to return by a healthcare professional. It specifies that a penalty for a first violation, is suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season; for a second violation, is suspension of the remainder of the season and for the next season; and, for a third violation, is permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.

The bill requires that once each school year a coach must complete a concussion management certification training course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the Department of Health. The bill also prohibits coaching prior to completing the certification training course.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days and the penalty provisions take effect two years after the effective date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 200 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Health and the Department of Education will be able to utilize existing information to develop materials about the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to post on their Internet websites. In addition, the training course required for coaches is available free of charge via the Internet.