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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1064 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY STEVENSON, BRIGGS, MILLARD, BROWNLEE, MAJOR,  
HARHART, PICKETT, MIRANDA, SAMUELSON, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW,  
O'NEILL, CALTAGIRONE, KILLION, LUCAS, DAVIS, KINSEY, CUTLER,  
SONNEY, MCGEEHAN, MAHONEY, ELLIS, ROSS, LONGIETTI, HARHAI,  
BIZZARRO, D. COSTA, KIM, MARSICO, GINGRICH, CLAY, V. BROWN,  
McCARTER, GIBBONS, MURT, GRELL AND CLYMER, OCTOBER 3, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 3, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review  
2 the Commonwealth's program of providing intervention for  
3 young athletes who sustain a brain injury, as required under  
4 the Safety in Youth Sports Act.

5 WHEREAS, It is important for the Commonwealth to have  
6 appropriate and effective standards for managing student athlete  
7 concussions and traumatic brain injuries; and

8 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognized that Pennsylvania's  
9 young athletes were at risk for concussions and traumatic brain  
10 injuries and consequently enacted the act of November 9, 2011  
11 (P.L.441, No.101), known as the Safety in Youth Sports Act; and

12 WHEREAS, Evidence gathered by the Pennsylvania Brain Injury  
13 Coalition via survey shows that violations of the act's  
14 standards for removal from play, returning to play and  
15 appropriate attention prior to return to play may be occurring  
16 throughout this Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, The science of evaluating and treating concussions

1 in athletes is rapidly evolving; and

2 WHEREAS, Attention and awareness of the seriousness of  
3 properly treating sports injuries at all levels is increasing;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has an obligation to the  
6 residents of this Commonwealth to ensure that the Safety in  
7 Youth Sports Act achieves the results envisioned by its passage;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A review and evaluation of the implementation of the  
10 act is warranted; and

11 WHEREAS, A review could lead to recommendations for improving  
12 the act so that Pennsylvania's young athletes, their families  
13 and their schools may benefit from updated standards; therefore  
14 be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
16 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a  
17 comprehensive review and evaluation of the Safety in Youth  
18 Sports Act and prepare a report of its findings that shall at a  
19 minimum:

20 (1) determine best practice for managing concussions and  
21 traumatic brain injuries in sports;

22 (2) identify the extent of compliance with the current  
23 law and reasons for noncompliance;

24 (3) recommend areas of the act that should be  
25 strengthened to be more effective;

26 (4) provide a review of similar laws in other states;

27 (5) determine the overall effectiveness of the Safety in  
28 Youth Sports Act in achieving the goals of protecting public  
29 health and safety and promoting safe sports for youth in this  
30 Commonwealth;

1 and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
3 report its findings and recommendations to the House of  
4 Representatives within twelve months of the adoption of this  
5 resolution.