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3 HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HB402
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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there is no provision
9 for child and youth athletics associations of the
10 state, or a political subdivision of the state,
11 that sponsors or conducts sports training or
12 activities, to require unpaid or volunteer sports
13 coaches and sports trainers affiliated with the
14 organization to complete a course providing coaches
15 and trainers with information regarding measures
16 that can be taken to reduce the probability that a
17 child or youth athlete will be seriously injured
18 while engaging in youth sports activities.

19 This bill would require that any unpaid or
20 volunteer coach or sports trainer affiliated with a
21 youth athletics association of the state or its
22 political subdivision that sponsors or conducts any
23 youth athletics activity where the National
24 Athletic Trainers' Association recognizes that a
25 child or youth may sustain a serious injury be
26 required to take a course providing information to
27 mitigate those risks.

1
2 A BILL
3 TO BE ENTITLED
4 AN ACT
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6 Relating to youth sports programs; to require any
7 unpaid or volunteer sports coach or sports trainer associated
8 with a youth athletics association of the state, or a
9 political subdivision of the state, that sponsors or conducts
10 any youth athletics activity where the National Athletic
11 Trainers' Association recognizes that a child or youth can
12 sustain a serious injury be required to take a course to
13 mitigate the risk of a child being injured.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the
16 following terms shall have the following meanings:

17 (1) ATHLETICS PERSONNEL. Coaching personnel, sports
18 administrators, and other individuals actively involved in
19 organizing, conducting, training, or coaching sports
20 activities for individuals 14 and under.

21 (2) YOUTH ATHLETE. Individuals age 14 and under
22 participating in an organized sport.

23 (3) YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES WITH RECOGNIZED RISK.
24 Any organized sport in which there is a recognized possibility
25 for a youth athlete to sustain a serious physical injury,
26 including, but not limited to, the sport of football,

1 basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, ice or field hockey,
2 cheerleading, and lacrosse.

3 (4) ASSOCIATION. Any organization that administers
4 or conducts youth athletics activities with recognized risk on
5 property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state,
6 an agent of the state, or a political subdivision of the
7 state.

8 Section 2. (a) Any state or political subdivision of
9 the state affiliated youth athletics association that sponsors
10 or conducts sports training or high risk youth athletic
11 activities for children age 14 years and younger shall require
12 all unpaid or volunteer athletics personnel to complete an
13 online or residence course which provides him or her with
14 information and awareness of actions and measures that may be
15 used to decrease the likelihood that a youth athlete will
16 sustain a serious injury while engaged or participating in a
17 youth athletics activity with recognized risk.

18 (b) Youth athletics activities under this section
19 include organized sports activities conducted by:

20 (1) Public and private schools, recreation and park
21 associations, and independent sports clubs.

22 (2) Any youth athletics association that conducts
23 youth athletics events at any facility, field, gymnasium,
24 park, or other property owned, leased, operated, or maintained
25 by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

26 (c) Any youth injury mitigating and information
27 course required to be taken by an unpaid or volunteer sports

1 coach or sports trainer under this section, at a minimum,
2 shall provide information on the following subjects:

3 (1) Emergency preparedness, planning, and rehearsal
4 for traumatic injuries.

5 (2) Concussions and head trauma.

6 (3) Heat and extreme weather related injury
7 familiarization.

8 (4) Physical conditioning and protective equipment
9 usage.

10 (5) Musculoskeletal overuse and trauma.

11 (d) Any youth injury mitigating and information
12 course required to be completed by an unpaid or volunteer
13 sports coach or sports trainer under this section shall be at
14 no cost to the individual.

15 (e) Any individual required to take a injury
16 mitigating course under this section shall complete the course
17 within 30 days of becoming actively engaged in, or serving as,
18 an athletic trainer or coach for the association.

19 (f) Any state or political subdivision of the state
20 affiliated youth athletic association that conducts youth
21 athletic activities with recognized risk or events that
22 require unpaid or volunteer sports coaches and sports trainers
23 to complete an injury mitigating course under this section
24 shall maintain a record of individual course completion for as
25 long as that individual serves as athletic personnel for the
26 association.

1 (g) The course requirement under this section shall
2 be an annual requirement to be completed not later than the
3 anniversary of the date on which the individual became
4 actively engaged in serving as athletic personnel for the
5 association.

6 (h) All licensed and certified athletic trainers
7 shall be exempt from the course requirement under this
8 section.

9 (i) This act may not be construed to replace the
10 involvement of certified athletic trainers at youth athletic
11 events.

12 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
13 first day of the third month following its passage and
14 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.