- 1 HB108
- 2 128484-3
- 3 By Representative Johnson (R)
- 4 RFD: Health
- 5 First Read: 01-MAR-11

1	<u>ENGROSSED</u>
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4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
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8	To provide for the adoption of policies for the
9	management of concussion and head injury in youth sports, and
10	mandate athletic head injury safety training.
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
12	Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds the following:
13	(1) Concussions are one of the most commonly
14	reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate
15	in sports and recreational activities. The Centers for Disease
16	Control and Prevention estimates that as many as 3,900,000
17	sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the
18	United States each year. A concussion is caused by a blow or
19	motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move
20	rapidly inside the skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or
21	death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not
22	properly evaluated and managed.
23	(2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
24	range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
25	normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
26	unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from

a fall or from participants colliding with each other, the ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority occurs without loss of consciousness.

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- (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death.
- (b) The Legislature recognizes that there exists within the State of Alabama the need for guidelines and other pertinent information to inform and educate health care providers, school systems, coaches, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury, including continuing to play after a suspected concussion or brain injury.

Section 2. (a) The governing body of each sport or recreational organization shall develop guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate youth athletes and their parents or guardians in their program of the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury, including continuing to play after a suspected concussion or brain injury. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or competition.

(b) Each sports or recreational organization governing body shall ensure that coaches receive annual

training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion.

- (c) Each sports or recreational organization shall establish by rule the requirements of the training which shall be provided by using designated resources to the extent practicable and timelines to ensure that, to the extent practicable, every coach receives the training before the beginning of practice for the school athletic team.
 - (d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury in practice or game shall be immediately removed from participation and may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician.

Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	House of Representatives
4 5 6 7	Read for the first time and re- ferred to the House of Representa- tives committee on Health
8 9 10	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar with 1 substitute and 06-APR-11
12 13 14	Read for the third time and passed as amended 21-APR-11 Yeas 94, Nays 0, Abstains 1
15 16 17 18	Greg Pappas Clerk