

1 HB402
2 183557-1
3 By Representative Williams (JD)
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 14-MAR-17

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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 coaches
13 and trainers affiliated with the organization to
14 complete a course providing coaches and trainers
15 with information regarding measures that can be
16 taken to reduce the probability that a child or
17 youth athlete will be seriously injured while
18 engaging in youth sports activities.

19 This bill would require that any unpaid or
20 volunteer coach or trainer affiliated with a youth
21 athletics association of the state or its political
22 subdivision that sponsors or conducts any high risk
23 youth athletics activity where there is a
24 likelihood that a child or youth may sustain a
25 serious injury be required to take a course
26 providing information to reduce those risks.
27

1 A BILL
2 TO BE ENTITLED
3 AN ACT
4

5 Relating to youth sports programs; to require any
6 unpaid or volunteer coach or trainer associated with a youth
7 athletics association of the state, or a political subdivision
8 of the state, that sponsors or conducts any high risk youth
9 athletics activity where there is a likelihood that a child or
10 youth can sustain a serious injury be required to take a
11 course to reduce the likelihood of a child being injured.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

15 (1) ATHLETICS PERSONNEL. Coaching personnel,
16 athletic directors, and other individuals actively involved in
17 organizing, conducting, training, or coaching sports
18 activities for individuals 14 and under.

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

21 (3) HIGH RISK YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. Any
22 organized sport in which there is a significant possibility
23 for a youth athlete to sustain a serious physical injury,
24 including, but not limited to, the sport of football,
25 basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, ice or field hockey,
26 cheerleading, and lacrosse.

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

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

15 (b) Youth athletics activities under this section
16 include organized sports activities conducted by:

17 (1) Public and private schools under the
18 Interscholastic Athletic Association.

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

23 (c) Any youth injury mitigating and information
24 course required to be taken by an unpaid or volunteer coach or
25 trainer under this section, at a minimum, shall provide
26 information on the following subjects:

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

3 (2) Concussions and head trauma.

4 (3) Heat and extreme weather related injury
5 familiarization.

6 (4) Physical conditioning and training equipment
7 usage.

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

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

16 (f) Any state or political subdivision of the state
17 affiliated youth athletic association that conducts high risk
18 youth athletic activities or events that requires unpaid or
19 volunteer coaches and trainers to complete an injury
20 mitigating course under this section shall maintain a record
21 of individual course completion for as long as that individual
22 serves as athletic personnel for the association.

23 (g) The course requirement under this section shall
24 be an annual requirement to be completed not later than the
25 anniversary of the date on which the individual became
26 actively engaged in serving as athletic personnel for the
27 association.

1 (h) All licensed and certified athletic trainers
2 shall be exempt from the course requirement under this
3 section.

4 (i) This act may not be construed to eliminate the
5 involvement of athletic trainers at youth athletic events.

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