



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6561

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
YOUTH AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth
3 sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs.
4 The task force shall (1) analyze (A) the efficacy and safety of the use of
5 protective neck guards in ice hockey, (B) information concerning
6 cardiac health and youth athletes, to determine whether and what type
7 of cardiac testing should be required for participation in all or certain
8 leagues or programs, (C) the effects of synthetic turf, crumb rubber and
9 pesticides on the health of youth athletes, including, but not limited to,
10 rates of cancer and other chronic or acute illnesses attributable to such
11 substances, in order to identify safe and unsafe playing field
12 conditions for youth athletes, and (D) best practices for injury
13 prevention and safety protocols and compare such best practices to
14 existing practices across the state in order to identify areas for
15 improvement; and (2) make recommendations for the implementation
16 of a state-wide system of injury prevention practices and safety
17 protocol review, including, but not limited to, requirements that (A)
18 such leagues and programs make public their injury prevention
19 practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices
20 and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to

21 the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Commissioner of Public
22 Health, or the commissioner's designee, shall meet annually with
23 representatives of youth sports leagues and intramural and
24 interscholastic athletic programs to discuss best practices for injury
25 prevention and safety protocols.

26 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

27 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
28 one of whom has expertise in sports medicine and one of whom has
29 expertise in neuroscience;

30 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
31 of whom has expertise in sports psychology and one of whom is a
32 representative of a municipal youth sports league;

33 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
34 Representatives, one of whom has expertise in cardiology and one of
35 whom has expertise in environmental health;

36 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of
37 whom is a representative of a nonprofit organization that serves as a
38 governing body for interscholastic athletic activities and one of whom
39 is a representative of a state-wide association of athletic trainers;

40 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
41 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of a state-wide
42 association of athletic directors and one of whom has expertise in
43 orthopedics;

44 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of
45 whom is a member of the General Assembly and one of whom is a
46 representative of a state-wide association of independent schools;

47 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
48 designee; and

49 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

50 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
51 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
52 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

53 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
54 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force
55 from among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall
56 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
57 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

58 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
60 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

61 (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
62 on its findings and recommendations concerning subparagraph (A) of
63 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing
64 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
65 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
66 of the general statutes.

67 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a
68 report on its findings and recommendations concerning
69 subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (a)
70 of this section and subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to the
71 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
72 of matters relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of
73 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
74 the date that it submits a report pursuant to this subsection or January
75 1, 2025, whichever is later.

76 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) Any youth athletic program
77 operated by a private entity may adopt the recommendations of the
78 task force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in
79 youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletic

80 programs established pursuant to section 1 of this act in developing
81 such program's injury prevention practices and safety protocols.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "that (A) such leagues and programs shall make public their injury prevention practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Department of Public Health " was changed to "requirements that (A) such leagues and programs make public their injury prevention practices and safety protocols and any amendments to such practices and protocols, and report such practices, protocols and amendments to the Department of Public Health, and (B) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee," for clarity, and in Section 1(g), "subparagraph (B)" was changed to "subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive," for accuracy.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*