

HOUSE No. 3478

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Pam Richardson (BY REQUEST)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a student athlete sports injury commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Robert S. Edwards

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 538 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT ATHLETE SPORTS INJURY COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there
2 is hereby established a Sports Injury Commission to investigate and report on the incidence of sports
3 injuries in elementary, middle and high school children. Said commission shall collect data of the types
4 of sports injuries, frequency, severity, identify high-risk sports, and long term impact of sports injuries on
5 young athletes, including but not limited to the rate and type of eye, facial and head injuries incurred and
6 the types of sports most frequently associated with such injuries. The commission shall develop strategic
7 and legislative recommendations to reduce the incidence of sports injuries including the mandatory use of
8 protective eye wear and/or headgear in all high-risk sports.

9 The commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health
10 Care, who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint
11 Committee on Education; the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his designee; the
12 Commissioner of the Department of Education; and one representative from each of the following
13 organizations: the Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons; the Massachusetts Medical
14 Society; the Massachusetts College of Emergency Room Physicians; the Massachusetts Chapter of the
15 American Academy of Pediatrics; the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians; the Massachusetts
16 Interscholastic Athletic Association; the Massachusetts School Nurses Association; the Massachusetts
17 Dental Society, the Massachusetts Coaches Association, the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts
18 and two high school students.