

Committee on Public Health Bill Summary

Bill No. S.796

Title: An Act relating to safety regulations for school athletic programs.

Sponsor: Senator Steven Baddour

Committee: Public Health

Hearing Date: September 15, 2009

Similar Matters: None

Prior History: New Bill

Current Law:

M.G.L. Chapter 111 establishes the Department of Health and its jurisdiction.

Summary:

- This legislation establishes head injury safety regulations for School Athletic Programs. These regulations apply to public schools and to any other school whose athletic programs are subject to Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association rules.
- It directs the Commissioner of Public Health to establish an interscholastic athletic Head Injury Safety Training Program through the division of violence and injury prevention.
- The following parties must complete the Training Program:
 - A coach, parent volunteer or trainer for an extracurricular athletic school activity, a physician employed by a school and the marching band director.
- The training shall include current training in recognizing the symptoms of potentially catastrophic injuries. Students shall receive this training.

- DPH is further directed to develop “preparticipation physical evaluation-medical history” forms to be completed by each student participating in an extracurricular activity.
- This legislation establishes rules of conduct surrounding a student becoming unconscious during an extracurricular athletic activity.
- Records shall be kept by the superintendent of the school. Penalties for noncompliance will be established by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. The requirements of this legislation shall be posted at school.
- This legislation does not waive any liability or immunity of a school district or its officers or employees nor does it create any liability for a course of legal action against a school district or its officers or employees. A volunteer is not liable for civil damages arising out of an act or omission relating to the requirements of this legislation, unless the act or omission is willfully or wantonly negligent.