

SB 1700

THE STATE SENATE  
Monday, February 22, 2010

Senate Bill No. 1700  
As Amended

SENATE BILL NO. 1700 - By: Anderson of the Senate and Cox of the House.

[ schools - sports-related injuries - develop guidelines -  
codification - effective date -  
emergency ]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-154 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. Concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as three million nine hundred thousand (3,900,000) sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year. A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

2. Concussions are a type of brain injury that can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works.

1 Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or  
2 recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players  
3 colliding with each other, with the ground, or with obstacles.  
4 Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the  
5 vast majority occurs without loss of consciousness.

6 3. Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head  
7 injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater  
8 injury and even death. The Legislature recognizes that, despite  
9 having generally recognized return-to-play standards for concussion  
10 and head injury, some affected youth athletes are prematurely  
11 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical injury  
12 or death to youth athletes in this state.

13 B. Each school district board of education shall work in  
14 cooperation with the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities  
15 Association to develop the guidelines and other pertinent  
16 information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes,  
17 and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion  
18 and head injury, including continuing to play after concussion or  
19 head injury. On an annual basis, a concussion and head injury  
20 information sheet shall be completed and returned to the school  
21 district by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian  
22 prior to the youth athlete's participation in practice or  
23 competition.

1 C. A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion  
2 or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from  
3 participation at that time.

4 D. A youth athlete who has been removed from participation as  
5 provided in subsection C of this section may not participate until  
6 the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained  
7 in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written  
8 clearance to return to participation from that health care provider.  
9 The health care provider may be a volunteer. A volunteer who  
10 authorizes a youth athlete to return to participation shall not be  
11 liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the  
12 rendering of such care, other than acts or omissions constituting  
13 gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2010.

15 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
16 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
17 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
18 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, dated  
20 2-18-10 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.