

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SENATE BILL 1700

By: Anderson

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to schools; providing statistics and
9 information related to certain sports-related
10 injuries; directing school district boards in
11 cooperation with certain association to develop
12 guidelines related to certain sports-related
13 injuries; requiring annual completion of certain
14 information sheet; requiring removal from
15 participation of youth athletes suspected of
16 sustaining certain injuries; prohibiting
17 participation until clearance from certain health
18 care provider; specifying certain liability;
19 providing for codification; providing an effective
20 date; and declaring an emergency.

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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

1 thousand (3,900,000) sports-related and recreation-related
2 concussions occur in the United States each year. A concussion is
3 caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain
4 to move rapidly inside the skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries
5 or death are significant when a concussion or head injury is not
6 properly evaluated and managed.

7 2. Concussions are a type of brain injury that can range from
8 mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works.
9 Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or
10 recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players
11 colliding with each other, with the ground, or with obstacles.
12 Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the
13 vast majority occurs without loss of consciousness.

14 3. Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head
15 injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater
16 injury and even death. The Legislature recognizes that, despite
17 having generally recognized return-to-play standards for concussion
18 and head injury, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
19 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical injury
20 or death to youth athletes in this state.

21 B. Each school district board of education shall work in
22 cooperation with the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities
23 Association to develop the guidelines and other pertinent
24 information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes,

1 and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion
2 and head injury, including continuing to play after concussion or
3 head injury. On an annual basis, a concussion and head injury
4 information sheet shall be completed and returned to the school
5 district by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian
6 prior to the youth athlete's participation in practice or
7 competition.

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

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

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

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

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