

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands school district policy requirements for recognizing and responding to possible concussions, specifically to include club-level sports. Imposes on non-school athletic teams requirements for recognizing and responding to possible concussions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Success of education programs since 2009 legislation
- High volume of students currently enrolled in club sports
- Specific sports that are often solely operated at a club level, such as most varieties of skiing, lacrosse, soccer, and many more
- Higher incidence of concussions among female athletes than male athletes
- Ongoing culture change, regarding seriousness of concussions, at all levels of sports competition
- Need to educate club-level coaches, lack of mandated concussion education for those individuals to date
- Educational classes and courses broadly available online, free to access
- Long-term problems associated with brain trauma including increased likelihood of migraines, cognitive difficulty, anxiety, and early-onset dementia, Parkinson’s disease, and Alzheimer’s disease
- Specific story of Ms. Jenna Sneva, a national champion skier and softball player, who suffered ten concussions in competition or training. She can never play contact sports competitively again, has had documented academic struggles at Oregon State University, and now, in her 20’s, has “the brain of a 60 year-old stroke victim.”

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Narrows scope of the measure, removing provisions related to reporting requirements, as well as removing mandatory penalties applicable to coaches for first/second/third violations of the measure.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 721-A builds off the success of Senate Bill 348 (2009), popularly known as “Max’s Law.” That law dealt with concussions and other traumatic brain injuries in public school sports. Senate Bill 721-A seeks to expand the requirements of Max’s law to include club sports. These sports are often organized by non-profit entities associated with, but not directly under the control of, public schools.