

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Weidner, Greenlick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Tyler Larson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/29, 5/22, 5/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines referee governing body. Requires league governing body and referee governing body ensure coaches and referees receive annual training on recognizing and seeking proper treatment for concussions. Requires coaches not allow athletes participate in athletic event or training until specified conditions are met. Requires referees not allow athletes participate in athletic event in which athlete exhibits signs or symptoms of concussion. Requires league develop guidelines and education materials for athletes, parents, legal guardians and coaches of signs and symptoms of concussion. Requires athletes and parents acknowledge receipt and review of educational materials. Allows league governing body conduct informational meeting prior to start of season regarding symptoms and warning signs of concussions. Provides that person who regularly serves as coach or referee who complies with provisions is immune from civil or criminal liability related to head injury, unless person acted or failed to act because of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. Clarifies that section shall not be construed to affect civil or criminal liability of person who does not regularly serve as coach or referee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Success of “Max’s Law” in raising awareness and treating concussions
- Prevalence of club sports and lack of regulation for concussions
- Long-term health impacts of concussions
- Personal story of multiple concussions in club sports and the long-term health impact
- Concerns about liability for volunteer coaches and referees
- Provisions of the amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, Senate Bill 348 was adopted. Popularly known as “Max’s Law,” the statute dealt with concussions and other traumatic brain injuries in public school sports. Senate Bill 721-B expands 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.