

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0341.02 Veronica Parish x2606

SENATE BILL 26-060

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Pelton R. and Daugherty,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUTH ATHLETE MENTAL HEALTH**
102 **TRAINING, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING**
103 **MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR YOUTH SPORTS COACHES AND**
104 **REQUIRING THE COACHES TO NOTIFY PARENTS OF POSSIBLE**
105 **MENTAL HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONCUSSIONS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires a coach of an organized youth athletic activity to take an annual mental health education course and inform parents or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

guardians of a youth athlete who sustains a concussion of possible changes in mental health as a result of a concussion.

The bill requires the concussion recognition education course for youth athletic coaches in middle, junior, and high schools to include information on the relationship between concussions and mental health.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 2 to article
3 43 of title 25 as follows:

PART 2

YOUTH ATHLETIC COACH

MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

25-43-201. Short title.

8 THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 2 IS "ALYSSA'S YOUTH CONCUSSION
9 MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION ACT".

25-43-202. Definitions.

11 AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
12 REQUIRES:

13 (1) "PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH
14 IN SECTION 25-43-102.

15 (2) "YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
16 SECTION 25-43-102

17 **25-43-203. Organized school athletic activities - mental health**
18 **guidelines required.**

19 (1) (a) EACH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL, JUNIOR HIGH
20 SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL SHALL REQUIRE EACH COACH OF A YOUTH
21 ATHLETIC ACTIVITY TO COMPLETE AN ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH
22 EDUCATION COURSE.

23 (b) EACH PRIVATE CLUB OR PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY AND

1 EACH ATHLETIC LEAGUE THAT SPONSORS YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
2 SHALL REQUIRE EACH COACH WITH WHOM A CLUB, FACILITY, OR LEAGUE
3 DIRECTLY CONTRACTS WITH, FORMALLY ENGAGES, OR EMPLOYS TO COACH
4 A YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY TO COMPLETE AN ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH
5 EDUCATION COURSE.

6 (2) (a) THE MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION COURSE REQUIRED BY
7 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION
8 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:

9 (I) A COACH'S IMPACT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF YOUTH
10 ATHLETES;
11 (II) A WELLNESS FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH ATHLETES;
12 (III) STRESS, ANXIETY DISORDERS, AND DEPRESSION;
13 (IV) TRAUMA;
14 (V) SUBSTANCE ABUSE;
15 (VI) SUICIDE PREVENTION; AND
16 (VII) THE EFFECTS OF CONCUSSIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
17 TO, PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS AND CHANGES IN MENTAL HEALTH THAT
18 YOUTH ATHLETES MAY EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT OF A CONCUSSION.

19 (b) THE MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION COURSE MAY BE HELD IN
20 CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONCUSSION RECOGNITION EDUCATION COURSE
21 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-43-103 (1)(a).

22 (c) AN ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION THAT A SCHOOL OR
23 SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A MEMBER OF MAY DESIGNATE SPECIFIC EDUCATION
24 COURSES AS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN
25 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

26 (3) IF A YOUTH ATHLETE IS REMOVED FROM PLAY AND THEIR SIGNS
27 AND SYMPTOMS CANNOT BE READILY EXPLAINED BY A CONDITION OTHER

1 THAN CONCUSSION, THE SCHOOL COACH OR THE CLUB'S, LEAGUE'S, OR
2 PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY'S DESIGNATED PERSONNEL SHALL NOTIFY
3 THE ATHLETE'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF POTENTIAL
4 PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS AND CHANGES IN MENTAL HEALTH THAT
5 YOUTH ATHLETES MAY EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT OF A CONCUSSION.

6 (4) NOTHING IN THIS PART 2 ABROGATES OR LIMITS THE
7 PROTECTIONS APPLICABLE TO PUBLIC ENTITIES AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
8 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY
9 ACT", ARTICLE 10 OF TITLE 24; VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD MEMBERS AND
10 NONPROFIT DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND TRUSTEES DESCRIBED PURSUANT
11 TO SECTIONS 13-21-115.7 AND 13-21-116; OR SKI AREA OPERATORS
12 PROTECTED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 33-44-112 AND 33-44-113.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25-43-101 as
14 follows:

15 **25-43-101. Short title.**

16 This ~~article~~ PART 1 shall be known and may be cited as the "Jake
17 Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act".

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-43-102, **amend**
19 the introductory portion as follows:

20 **25-43-102. Definitions.**

21 As used in this ~~article~~ 43 PART 1, unless the context otherwise
22 requires:

23 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-43-103, **amend**
24 (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(II), (2)(a)(III), and (5); and **add**
25 (2)(a)(IV) as follows:

26 **25-43-103. Organized school athletic activities - concussion
27 guidelines required.**

(2) (a) The concussion recognition education course required by subsection (1) of this section shall MUST include the following:

(II) The necessity of obtaining proper medical attention for a person suspected of having a concussion; and

(III) Information on the nature and risk of concussions, including the danger of continuing to play after sustaining a concussion and the proper method of allowing a youth athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity; AND