

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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SENATE DRS85037-LE-35A (01/20)

Short Title: Interscholastic Sports/Concussions.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Graham.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT STUDENT ATHLETES WITH CONCUSSIONS OR
3 SYMPTOMS OF HEAD INJURIES DO NOT CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN
4 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS.

5 Whereas, concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children
6 and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities; and

7 Whereas, concussions are traumatic head injuries that occur from both mild and
8 severe blows to the head; and

9 Whereas, concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the vast
10 majority occur without loss of consciousness; and

11 Whereas, continuing to participate in a sport with a concussion or symptoms of head
12 injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death; Now,
13 therefore,

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12 reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.**

17 The general supervision and administration of the free public school system shall be vested
18 in the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall establish policy for the
19 system of free public schools, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly. The powers
20 and duties of the State Board of Education are defined as follows:

- 21 ...
- 22 (23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –
23 The State Board of Education may adopt rules governing interscholastic
24 athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including
25 eligibility for student participation. The rules shall provide for the following:
- 26 a. All employees or volunteers who instruct or train members of a
27 school athletic team shall receive annual training on how to
28 recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper
29 medical care for a person suspected of having a concussion. To the
30 extent practicable, this training shall be completed before the
31 beginning of the season for the sport.
- 32 b. A member of a school athletic team shall not be permitted to
33 participate in any athletic event or training on the day the team
34 member is diagnosed with a concussion or exhibits signs, symptoms,
35 or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or



1 suspected blow to the head or body. The team member may
2 participate in an event or practice on a subsequent day only if the
3 team member (i) no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors
4 consistent with a concussion and (ii) receives a medical release form
5 from a health care professional.

6 The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to
7 apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic
8 athletic activities at the high school level.

9 "

10 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
11 the 2011-2012 school year.