HB9

187400-2

By Representative Williams (JD)

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 09-JAN-18

PFD: 07/24/2017
A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to youth sports programs; to require any unpaid or volunteer coach or trainer associated with a youth athletics association of the state, or a political subdivision of the state, that sponsors or conducts any high risk youth athletics activity where there is a likelihood that a child or youth can sustain a serious injury be required to take a course to reduce the likelihood of a child being injured.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) ASSOCIATION. Any organization that administers or conducts high risk youth athletics activities on property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state, an agent of the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

(2) ATHLETICS PERSONNEL. Coaching personnel, athletic directors, and other individuals actively involved in organizing, conducting, training, or coaching sports activities for individuals age 14 and under.

(3) HIGH RISK YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. Any organized sport in which there is a significant possibility
for a youth athlete to sustain a serious physical injury, including, but not limited to, the sports of football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, ice or field hockey, cheerleading, and lacrosse.

(4) YOUTH ATHLETE. Individuals age 14 and under participating in an organized sport.

Section 2. (a) Any state or political subdivision of a state affiliated youth athletics association that sponsors or conducts sports training or high risk youth athletic activities for children age 14 years and younger shall require all unpaid or volunteer athletics personnel to complete an online or residence course which provides him or her with information and awareness of actions and measures that may be used to decrease the likelihood that a youth athlete will sustain a serious injury while engaged or participating in a high risk youth athletics activity.

(b) Youth athletics activities under this section include organized sports activities conducted by either of the following:

(1) Public and private schools under the Interscholastic Athletic Association.

(2) Any youth athletics association that conducts youth athletics events at any facility, field, gymnasium, park, or other property owned, leased, operated, or maintained by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

(c) Any youth injury mitigating and information course required to be taken by an unpaid or volunteer coach or
trainer under this section, at a minimum, shall provide
information on the following subjects:

(1) Emergency preparedness, planning, and rehearsal
for traumatic injuries.

(2) Concussions and head trauma.

(3) Heat and extreme weather related injury
familiarization.

(4) Physical conditioning and training equipment
usage.

(d) Any youth injury mitigating and information
course required to be completed by an unpaid or volunteer
coach or trainer under this section shall be at no cost to the
individual.

(e) Any individual required to take an injury
mitigating course under this section shall complete the course
within 30 days of becoming actively engaged in, or serving as,
an athletic trainer or coach for the association.

(f) Any state or political subdivision of a state
affiliated youth athletic association that conducts high risk
youth athletic activities or events that requires unpaid or
volunteer coaches and trainers to complete an injury
mitigating course under this section shall maintain a record
of individual course completion for as long as that individual
serves as athletic personnel for the association.

(g) The course requirement under this section shall
be an annual requirement to be completed not later than the
anniversary of the date on which the individual became
actively engaged in serving as athletic personnel for the
association.

(h) All licensed and certified athletic trainers, doctors, nurses, first responders, and health care
professionals with acute traumatic life support training shall be exempt from the course requirement under this section.

(i) This act may not be construed to eliminate the involvement of athletic trainers at youth athletic events.

(j) This act shall not be construed to impose any new liability or new requirements upon political subdivisions of the state.

(k) Athletics personnel who complete an online or residence course under this act shall be exempt from liability under the good samaritan law.

Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.
House of Representatives

Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on Education Policy

Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment

Read for the third time and passed as amended

Yeas 41, Nays 21, Abstains 2

Jeff Woodard
Clerk