HB9

187400-1

By Representative Williams (JD)

RFD: Education Policy

First Read: 09-JAN-18

PFD: 07/24/2017
SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there is no provision requiring unpaid or volunteer coaches and trainers affiliated with a child or youth athletic association or a political subdivision that conducts or sponsors sports or sports training activities to complete a course providing coaches and trainers with information regarding measures that can be taken to reduce the probability that a child or youth athlete will be seriously injured while engaging in youth sports activities.

This bill would require that any unpaid or volunteer coach or trainer affiliated 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 may sustain a serious injury be required to take a course providing information to reduce those risks.
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 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.

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.