

House File 461 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 461

BY HAGENOW

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the protection of child athletes from
2 commotio cordis.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.30 **Commotio cordis policies.**

2 1. Annually, a private youth sports league shall provide
3 information on commotio cordis to coaches, children, and the
4 parents and guardians of children participating in high-risk
5 sports prior to the beginning of seasonal athletic practices
6 or competitions. Such information shall include all of the
7 following:

8 a. The most common causes of commotio cordis.

9 b. Appropriate actions to take in response to a suspected
10 commotio cordis episode.

11 c. Instructions for reporting commotio cordis episodes to
12 the national commotio cordis registry.

13 2. a. A private youth sports league shall develop and
14 maintain a commotio cordis emergency action plan that outlines
15 core expectations for evaluation and emergency management of
16 suspected episodes of commotio cordis in children participating
17 in high-risk sports.

18 b. A private youth sports league shall maintain at all
19 times at least one coach or other staff member or volunteer
20 who is aware of the commotio cordis emergency action plan and
21 knowledgeable in implementation of the plan. Each private
22 youth sports league shall ensure that at least one such person
23 is present at each athletic practice or competition for a
24 high-risk sport.

25 3. A private youth sports league shall report each
26 documented episode of commotio cordis to the national commotio
27 cordis registry and shall designate a person responsible for
28 such reporting.

29 4. a. A private youth sports league which acquires or uses
30 a defibrillator for the treatment of suspected commotio cordis
31 episodes shall incur no liability for such action.

32 b. Except as provided in paragraph "a", this section does
33 not create or affect liability, or immunity therefrom, for any
34 person.

35 5. For purposes of this section:

1 *a.* "*Commotio cordis*" means cardiac arrhythmia occurring as a
2 result of a sudden blow to the chest.

3 *b.* "*High-risk sports*" means baseball, softball, lacrosse,
4 soccer, ice hockey, martial arts, and other sports in which
5 there is a high risk of commotio cordis episodes.

6 *c.* "*Private youth sports league*" means a nonscholastic
7 organized group formed for the purpose of cross-team athletic
8 competition among persons under nineteen years of age that
9 charges a fee as a condition of participation.

10 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **280.13D Commotio cordis policies.**

11 1. Annually, a school district or nonpublic school shall
12 provide information on commotio cordis to coaches, children,
13 and the parents and guardians of children participating in
14 high-risk sports prior to the beginning of seasonal athletic
15 practices or competitions. Such information shall include all
16 of the following:

17 *a.* The most common causes of commotio cordis.

18 *b.* Appropriate actions to take in response to a suspected
19 commotio cordis episode.

20 *c.* Instructions for reporting commotio cordis episodes to
21 the national commotio cordis registry.

22 2. *a.* A school district or nonpublic school shall develop
23 and maintain a commotio cordis emergency action plan that
24 outlines core expectations for evaluation and emergency
25 management of suspected episodes of commotio cordis in children
26 participating in high-risk sports.

27 *b.* A school district or nonpublic school shall maintain at
28 all times at least one coach or other staff member or volunteer
29 who is aware of the commotio cordis emergency action plan and
30 knowledgeable in implementation of the plan. Each school
31 district and nonpublic school shall ensure that at least one
32 such person is present at each athletic practice or competition
33 for a high-risk sport.

34 3. A school district or nonpublic school shall report each
35 documented episode of commotio cordis to the national commotio

1 cordis registry and shall designate a person responsible for
2 such reporting.

3 4. *a.* A school district or nonpublic school which acquires
4 or uses a defibrillator for the treatment of suspected commotio
5 cordis episodes shall incur no liability for such action.

6 *b.* Except as provided in paragraph "a", this section does
7 not create or affect liability, or immunity therefrom, for any
8 person.

9 5. For purposes of this section:

10 *a.* "*Commotio cordis*" means cardiac arrhythmia occurring as a
11 result of a sudden blow to the chest.

12 *b.* "*High-risk sports*" means baseball, softball, lacrosse,
13 soccer, ice hockey, martial arts, and other sports in which
14 there is a high risk of commotio cordis episodes.

15 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
16 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
17 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
18 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
19 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
20 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
21 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
22 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
23 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
24 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
25 districts.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill requires a school district, nonpublic school, or
28 private youth sports league to annually provide information
29 on commotio cordis to coaches, children, and the parents
30 and guardians of children participating in high-risk sports
31 prior to the beginning of seasonal athletic practices or
32 competitions. The information is to include the most common
33 causes of commotio cordis, appropriate actions to take
34 in response to a suspected commotio cordis episode, and
35 instructions for reporting commotio cordis episodes to the

1 national commotio cordis registry.

2 The bill defines "commotio cordis" as cardiac arrhythmia
3 occurring as a result of a sudden blow to the chest. The
4 bill defines "private youth sports league" as a nonscholastic
5 organized group formed for the purpose of cross-team athletic
6 competition among persons under 19 years of age that charges
7 a fee as a condition of participation. The bill defines
8 "high-risk sports" as baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, ice
9 hockey, martial arts, and other sports in which there is a high
10 risk of commotio cordis episodes.

11 The bill requires a school district, nonpublic school, or
12 private youth sports league to develop and maintain a commotio
13 cordis emergency action plan. The school district, nonpublic
14 school, or private youth sports league shall maintain at all
15 times at least one coach or other staff member or volunteer who
16 is aware of the plan and knowledgeable in its implementation
17 and shall ensure that at least one such person is present at
18 each athletic practice or competition for a high-risk sport.

19 The bill requires a school district, nonpublic school, or
20 private youth sports league to report each documented episode
21 of commotio cordis to the national commotio cordis registry and
22 to designate a person responsible for such reporting.

23 The bill provides that a school district, nonpublic school,
24 or private youth sports league which acquires or uses a
25 defibrillator for the treatment of suspected commotio cordis
26 episodes shall incur no liability for such action. The bill
27 does not otherwise create or affect liability, or immunity
28 therefrom, for any person.

29 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
30 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
31 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
32 district from state school foundation aid received by the
33 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
34 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
35 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The

H.F. 461

1 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
2 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
3 mandates included in the bill.