

House Bill 1626

By: Representatives Burkhalter of the 36<sup>th</sup> and Martin of the 37<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to specific programs in elementary and secondary education, so as to  
3 provide that the State Board of Education shall develop a school interscholastic or intramural  
4 extracurricular athletic policy that provides for the use of a single, comprehensive,  
5 preparticipation physical examination form with an associated protocol as well as an  
6 education and awareness program for all student athletes, their parents or guardians, and  
7 school coaches and athletic trainers who are involved in interscholastic or intramural  
8 extracurricular sports; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Ryan Boslet Bill."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
15 relating to specific programs in elementary and secondary education, is amended by adding  
16 a new Code Section 20-2-319 to read as follows:

17 "20-2-319.

18 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop, with input from appropriate experts and  
19 organizations, a school interscholastic or intramural extracurricular athletic policy that  
20 provides for the use of a single, comprehensive, preparticipation physical examination form  
21 with an associated protocol as well as an education and awareness program for all student  
22 athletes, their parents or guardians, and school coaches and athletic trainers who are  
23 involved in interscholastic or intramural extracurricular sports. Local boards shall have in  
24 place a school interscholastic or intramural extracurricular athletic policy which includes

1 all elements of the policy adopted by the state board but may also include additional  
2 elements.

3 (b) As used in this Code section, the term 'participation' means participation in sports  
4 practices and actual interscholastic or intramural extracurricular sports competition.

5 (c) Each school district shall require students who participate in extracurricular sports in  
6 grades 6 through 12 in the schools of the district to have a physical examination prior to  
7 participation. The person conducting the physical examination shall use the State Board of  
8 Education approved form and protocol pursuant to subsection (g) of this Code section,  
9 provided that the form and protocol may at the option of the local board include additional  
10 elements.

11 (d) Each school district shall require students who continue to participate in extracurricular  
12 sports in grades 6 through 12 to have an annual physical examination for the purpose of  
13 updating the prescribed health form.

14 (e) In addition to the annual examination required by subsection (d) of this Code section,  
15 a school district shall require a student who is diagnosed with a significant illness or suffers  
16 an injury which requires medical intervention or has had major surgery to have a physical  
17 examination for the purpose of evaluating the student's fitness to return to and continue in  
18 extracurricular sports participation.

19 (f) Any physical examination required by this Code section shall be conducted by a  
20 physician possessing an unrestricted license to practice medicine who has clinical training  
21 and experience in detecting cardiopulmonary diseases, defects, or both.

22 (g) The State Board of Education shall appoint an appropriate committee to create the  
23 comprehensive, preparticipation physical examination form with the associated protocol  
24 to be used for physical examinations required by this Code section. The committee may  
25 consult or work with the necessary voluntary organizations approved by the State Board  
26 of Education, as described in subsection (i) of this Code section, in adopting rules under  
27 this Code section. The form developed by the committee appointed under this subsection  
28 shall contain, but not be limited to, the following questions:

29 '1. Have you had a medical illness or injury since your last check up or sports physical?

30 Do you have an ongoing or chronic illness?

31 2. Have you ever been hospitalized overnight?

32 Have you ever had surgery?

33 3. Are you currently taking any prescription or nonprescription (over-the-counter)  
34 medications or pills or using an inhaler?

35 4. Have you ever taken any supplements (any product taken orally or intravenously that  
36 is not considered to be a food substance) or vitamins to help you gain or lose weight or  
37 improve your performance?

- 1 5. Do you have any allergies (for example, to pollen, medicine, food, or stinging  
2 insects)?
- 3 Have you ever had a rash or hives develop during or after exercise?
- 4 6. Have you ever passed out during or after exercise?
- 5 Have you ever been dizzy during or after exercise?
- 6 Have you ever had chest pain during or after exercise?
- 7 Do you get tired more quickly than your friends do during exercise?
- 8 Have you ever had racing of your heart or skipped heartbeats?
- 9 Do you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol?
- 10 Have you ever been told you have a heart murmur?
- 11 Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or of sudden death before  
12 age 50?
- 13 Have you had a severe viral infection (for example, myocarditis or mononucleosis)  
14 within the last month?
- 15 Has a physician ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any heart  
16 problems?
- 17 7. Do you have any current skin problems (for example, itching, rashes, acne, warts,  
18 fungus, or blisters)?
- 19 8. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion?
- 20 Have you ever been knocked out, become unconscious, or lost your memory?
- 21 Have you ever had a seizure?
- 22 Do you have frequent or severe headaches?
- 23 Have you ever had numbness or tingling in your arms, hands, legs, or feet?
- 24 Have you ever had a stinger, burner, or pinched nerve?
- 25 9. Have you ever become ill from exercising in the heat?
- 26 10. Do you cough, wheeze, or have trouble breathing during or after activity?
- 27 Do you have asthma?
- 28 Do you have seasonal allergies that require medical treatment?
- 29 11. Do you use any special protective or corrective equipment or devices that are not  
30 usually used for your sport or position (for example, knee brace, special neck roll, foot  
31 orthotics, retainer on your teeth, or hearing aid)?
- 32 12. Do you have any problems with your eyes or vision?
- 33 Do you wear glasses, contacts, or protective eyewear?
- 34 13. Have you ever had a sprain, strain, or swelling after injury?
- 35 Have you ever broken or fractured any bones or dislocated any joints?
- 36 Have you ever had any other problems with pain or swelling in muscles, tendons,  
37 bones, or joints?

1 14. Do you want to weigh more or less than you do now?

2 Do you lose weight regularly to meet weight requirements for your sport?

3 15. Do you feel stressed out?

4 16. Record the dates of your most recent immunizations (shots) for tetanus, measles,  
5 hepatitis B, and chickenpox.

6 17. Is there a history of Marfan's Syndrome in your family?

7 18. Is there a history of premature (prior to age 50) onset of diabetes in your family?

8 FEMALES ONLY

9 19. When was your first menstrual period?

10 When was your most recent menstrual period?

11 How much time do you usually have from the start of one period to the start of  
12 another?

13 How many periods have you had in the last year?

14 What was the longest time between periods in the last year?'

15 (h) The State Board of Education shall also appoint an appropriate committee to create the  
16 necessary materials and programs for the purpose of educating all student athletes, their  
17 parents or guardians, and coaches or athletic trainers who are involved in interscholastic  
18 or intramural extracurricular sports about health issues that are deemed to directly affect  
19 student athletes. The committee that is charged with creating this awareness program may  
20 consult, or work with, the necessary voluntary organizations approved by the State Board  
21 of Education, as described in subsection (i) of this Code section. The state board shall  
22 require participation in this education and awareness program by coaches and athletic  
23 trainers. Students and their parents or guardians may exempt themselves from participation  
24 in the education and awareness program by signing a waiver stating that they were offered  
25 the opportunity and chose to decline. Use of the health form is not optional.

26 (i) The State Board of Education may approve voluntary organizations to administer  
27 interscholastic and intramural activities, forms, and protocols after reviewing the rules and  
28 bylaws of the voluntary organization to determine that they do not conflict with state law  
29 or rules of the state board. Voluntary organizations that participate in this process shall by  
30 rule accept the responsibility of notifying their membership in its entirety of the  
31 organization's participation in and support of this endeavor. Further, the state board may  
32 suspend or revoke its approval if an approved organization is found to have violated state  
33 law or rules of the state board. If an organization is not approved or its approval is revoked  
34 or suspended, it may appeal the denial, suspension, or revocation to the state board, which  
35 may hear the matter or delegate authority to a hearing officer to hold a hearing and enter  
36 a final order."

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**SECTION 3.**

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.