

House Bill 1045

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Martin of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Roberts of the 154<sup>th</sup>, and Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to health, so as to provide that each person employed by a public school  
3 system in this state who renders service as an athletic coach shall successfully complete a  
4 sports safety course prior to serving as an athletic coach; to provide for the requirements of  
5 such courses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
10 relating to health, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "20-2-775.1.

12 (a) On and after July 1, 2013, each person who is employed by a public school system in  
13 this state and who renders service as an athletic coach shall successfully complete a sports  
14 safety course as provided in this Code section prior to serving as an athletic coach;  
15 provided, however, that, in the case of athletic teams with multiple coaches, it shall only  
16 be necessary that one of the coaches completes such sports safety course.

17 (b) To satisfy the requirements of this Code section, a sports safety course shall meet the  
18 following requirements:

19 (1) The course shall be approved by the department in consultation with the Georgia  
20 High School Association;

21 (2) The course shall contain not less than three nor more than six hours of instruction  
22 time;

23 (3) The course shall cover sports safety specifically, including the topics of emergency  
24 action planning and recognition; heat and cold illnesses; head, neck, and ocular injuries;  
25 and preparticipation warm-up and cool down, and excluding coaching principles and  
26 instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

- 27 (4) The course shall immediately provide an individual with a merit certificate or  
28 verification of successful completion at the time of successful completion;
- 29 (5) The course shall be available through both in-person and online teaching methods;
- 30 (6) The course shall not be specific to any one sport but shall consist of general safety  
31 and emergency principles for all sports and venues;
- 32 (7) The course shall be of a national presence and be a curriculum which is adopted in  
33 more than just the State of Georgia;
- 34 (8) Every individual who is required to take this course shall also be required to complete  
35 a recertification course at least once every 36 calendar months;
- 36 (9) The hands-on portion of the course materials shall not exceed 150 pages of print  
37 content;
- 38 (10) The course shall be authored or approved by at least ten health care professionals,  
39 including doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, registered nurses, physical  
40 therapists, sports nutritionists, certified emergency medical technicians, and certified  
41 athletic trainers;
- 42 (11) The course shall be revised and reviewed for updates at least once every 30 months;
- 43 (12) The course shall be available to the general public for a retail price of not more than  
44 \$50.00; and
- 45 (13) Each course examination shall be automated and taken online with a score of 80  
46 percent or better for successful completion."

47 **SECTION 2.**

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