

Senate Bill 101

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Black of the 8th and Jones of the 25th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to  
2 require volunteer coaches with youth athletic associations to undergo training to reduce the  
3 likelihood of injuries to youth athletes engaged in high risk athletics; to provide a short title;  
4 to provide definitions; to provide a defense from liability; to provide for rules and  
5 regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended by adding  
9 at the end thereof a new chapter to read as follows:

10 "CHAPTER 53

11 31-53-1.

12 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the 'Coach Safely Act.'

13 31-53-2.

14 As used in this chapter, the term:

15 (1) 'Association' means any organization that administers or conducts high risk youth  
16 athletic activities on property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by the state, or any  
17 of its agencies, departments, or political subdivisions.

18 (2) 'Athletics personnel' means athletic directors and other individuals actively involved  
19 in organizing, training, or coaching sports activities for individuals age 14 and under.

20 (3) 'Coach' means any individual, whether paid, unpaid, volunteer, or interim, who has  
21 been approved by an association to organize, train, or supervise a youth athlete or team  
22 of youth athletes. If an individual approved by the association is unavailable, the term

23 may include an individual selected by a youth athlete or a team of youth athletes who has  
24 not been approved by the association.

25 (4) 'High risk youth athletic activities' means any organized sport in which there is a  
26 significant possibility for a youth athlete to sustain a serious physical injury, including,  
27 but not limited to, the sports of football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, ice or  
28 field hockey, cheerleading, and lacrosse.

29 (5) 'Youth athlete' means an individual age 14 or under participating in an organized  
30 sport.

31 31-53-3.

32 (a) Any association that sponsors or conducts sports training or high risk youth athletic  
33 activities for children age 14 and under shall require all unpaid or volunteer coaches and  
34 athletics personnel to complete an online or residence course approved by the department  
35 which provides such coaches and personnel with information and awareness of actions and  
36 measures that may be used to decrease the likelihood that youth athletes will sustain serious  
37 injuries while engaged or participating in high risk youth athletic activities.

38 (b) Any youth injury mitigating and information course required to be taken by a coach  
39 or athletics personnel under this Code section, at a minimum, shall provide information on  
40 the following subjects:

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

42 (2) Concussions and head trauma;

43 (3) Heat and extreme weather related injury familiarization;

44 (4) Physical conditioning and training equipment usage; and

45 (5) Heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden cardiac death.

46 (c) Any youth injury mitigating and information course required to be completed by an  
47 unpaid or volunteer coach or athletics personnel under this Code section shall be at no cost  
48 to the individual.

49 (d) Any individual required to take a youth injury mitigating and information course under  
50 this Code section shall complete such course within 30 days of becoming actively engaged  
51 in, or serving as, athletics personnel or a coach for an association.

52 (e) Any association that conducts high risk youth athletic activities or events that requires  
53 coaches and athletics personnel to complete a youth injury mitigating and information  
54 course under this Code section shall maintain a record of individual course completion for  
55 as long as that individual serves as athletic personnel or coach for the association.

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

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

62 (h) This chapter shall not be construed to eliminate the involvement of athletic trainers at  
63 youth athletic events.

64 (i) This chapter shall not be construed to impose any additional liability upon or waive the  
65 sovereign immunity of the state, its agencies, departments, or political subdivisions.

66 (j) Athletics personnel and coaches shall be entitled to a defense from liability for any  
67 injury sustained by a youth athlete as a result of participation in a high risk youth athletic  
68 activity upon establishing:

69 (1) That they completed the youth injury mitigation and information course described  
70 in subsection (a) of this Code section; and

71 (2) That they reasonably conformed their conduct to the safety techniques and methods  
72 identified in such course.

73 (k) Pursuant to the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 5 of this title, the department shall  
74 have the authority and power to adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
75 appear necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this chapter."

76 **SECTION 2.**

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