

House Bill 1007

By: Representatives Douglas of the 78th, Boddie of the 62nd, Carpenter of the 4th, Pirkle of the 155th, Frye of the 118th, and others

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; to provide an effective
6 date; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

11 "CHAPTER 54

12 31-54-1.

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

14 31-54-2.

15 As used in this chapter, the term:

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

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

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

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

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

30 31-54-3.

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

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

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

41 (2) Concussions and head trauma;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

68 **SECTION 2.**

69 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2021.

70 **SECTION 3.**

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