

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To enact "Georgia's Return to Play Act of 2012"; to amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to establish a return to play policy for student athletes suffering from concussions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

This Act shall be known and may be cited as "Georgia's Return to Play Act of 2012."

SECTION 2.

Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by inserting a new Code section as follows:

"20-2-324.1.

(a) Not later than January 1, 2013, the State Board of Education shall develop and distribute to each local school board mandatory guidelines for informing and educating coaches, student-athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions, including criteria for removal from and return to play and risks of not reporting the injury and continuing to play.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2013, each local school district shall adopt and implement policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes consistent with the State Board of Education's guidelines. Such policies shall require:

(1) Review, on an annual basis, by each student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent or guardian information provided by the local school division relative to concussions in order for such student-athlete to participate in any extracurricular physical activity. After

26 having reviewed materials describing the short- and long-term health effects of
27 concussions, each student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent or guardian shall sign
28 a statement acknowledging receipt of such information, in a manner approved by the
29 State Board of Education; and

30 (2) Immediate removal from activity of any student-athlete suspected by that
31 student-athlete's coach, athletic trainer, or team physician of sustaining a concussion or
32 brain injury in a practice or game. A student-athlete who has been removed from play
33 and suspected to have a concussion or brain injury shall not return to play that same day
34 and not until:

35 (A) Evaluated by an appropriate licensed health care provider as determined by the
36 State Board of Education; and

37 (B) In receipt of written clearance to return to play from such licensed health care
38 provider.

39 (c) The guidelines of the State Board of Education developed pursuant to this Code section
40 shall become effective on January 1, 2013."

41 **SECTION 3.**

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