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H.408

Introduced by Representatives McCullough of Williston, Macaig of Williston,
and Squirrell of Underhill

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; head injury; collision and contact sports

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require
elementary and secondary schools to take action to reduce the risk of head
injury during athletic events.

An act relating to reducing the risk of head injury during athletic events

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1431 is amended to read:

§ 1431. CONCUSSIONS AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES

(a) Definitions. As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(2) “Collision sport” means football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, rugby, or
wrestling.

(3) “Contact sport” means a sport, ~~other than football, hockey, lacrosse,~~
~~or wrestling,~~ defined as a contact sport by the American Academy of
Pediatrics.

1 * * *

2 (d) Participation in athletic activity.

3 * * *

4 (3) A coach shall not permit a youth athlete to come into physical
5 contact or collide with another person or object in a manner that may cause a
6 concussion or other head injuries during a practice or training session for an
7 athletic event.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 2. CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

10 (a) Creation. There is created the Concussion Management Working Group
11 to consider and make recommendations on officiating for contact sports in
12 prekindergarten through grade 12 sporting events.

13 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
14 11 members:

15 (1) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
16 or designee;

17 (2) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
18 designee;

19 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Council of Special Education
20 Administrators or designee;

1 (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
2 designee;

3 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools
4 Association or designee;

5 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont-National Education
6 Association or designee;

7 (7) the Secretary of Education or designee;

8 (8) two members selected by the Vermont Principals' Association who
9 coach collision sports; and

10 (9) two members selected by the Vermont Principals' Association who
11 officiate collision sports.

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall examine the officiating of
13 collision sports to determine if changes should be made to enhance student
14 safety and ensure consistent application of officiating rules. The Working
15 Group shall recommend specific changes to officiating practices and rules as it
16 determines appropriate.

17 (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
18 technical, and legal assistance of the Vermont Principals' Association.

1 (e) Meetings.

2 (1) The Executive Director of the Vermont Principal's Association or
3 designee shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or
4 before August 1, 2019.

5 (2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at
6 the first meeting.

7 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

8 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 16, 2019.

9 (f) Reports. On or before December 15, 2019, the Working Group shall
10 submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and
11 the State Board of Education with its findings and recommendations.

12 (g) Reimbursement. Members of the Working Group who are not
13 employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or
14 reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
15 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than
16 five meetings per year.

17 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$2,440.00 is appropriated for fiscal year
18 2019 from the General Fund to the Agency of Education to provide funding for
19 per diem compensation and reimbursement under subsection (g) of this section.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.