
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 10, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

END OF SESSION — HF 2442 — CONCUSSION INJURIES, SCHOOL POLICIES

Description. [House File 2442](#) sets new requirements for school districts and high school athletic officials in addressing concussion and brain injury in students participating in extracurricular interscholastic activities. The Act requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) to work together to distribute information to educate coaches, students, and parents about concussion and brain injury. Beginning in FY 2019, school districts must distribute information to parents or guardians of students in grades 7 through 12 and require that a signed copy be returned prior to a student's participation in any extracurricular interscholastic activity.

The Act sets requirements for removal of students from participation and for a student's return to participation. The Act requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to develop a return-to-learn plan for each student removed from participation and diagnosed with a concussion or brain injury. Districts and accredited nonpublic schools are required to provide protective gear to participating students in grades 7 through 12.

The Act specifies that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that fully implement the requirements of the Act and provide an emergency medical care provider or a licensed health care provider at a contest will not be liable for any claim for injuries or damages based on the actions of the care provider as long as the provider acted reasonably and in good faith, in the best interest of the student athlete, and without undue influence of the school district or accredited nonpublic school or the school coaching staff. The Act also limits liability for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools if a care provider, previously scheduled to be present, is unable to be present due to documentable, unforeseen circumstances, and all other protocols are followed.

The Act specifies that the licensed health care provider, if providing care without compensation, will not be liable for any claim for injuries or damages as long as the provider acted reasonably and in good faith, in the best interest of the student athlete, and without undue influence of the school district or nonpublic school or the school coaching staff. The Act defines "licensed health care provider" to include a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist, or licensed athletic trainer. "Emergency medical care provider" is defined in Iowa Code section [147A.1](#).

The Act specifies that any person required to complete training required by the Act must complete initial training by July 1, 2019.

Fiscal Impact. [House File 2442](#) is estimated to have minimal fiscal impact to the State. The Act's fiscal impact to local school districts cannot be estimated, but is likely to be minimal.

Enactment Date. The Act was approved by the General Assembly on April 12, 2018, and signed by the Governor on April 26, 2018.

LSA Staff Contact: Robin Madison (515.281.5270) robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov

965829