

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 260

BY SENATORS EDMONDS, CARTER, JENKINS, LUNEAU, MILLER AND MIZELL

LIABILITY. Provides relative to youth athletics. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 9:2798(B)(1) and to enact R.S. 9:2798(D)(4) and R.S. 40:1087.2,

3 relative to youth athletics; to provide for limitation of liability; to provide for

4 definitions; to provide for an injury mitigation course; to provide for content of youth

5 injury mitigation courses; to provide for posting of certain information on the

6 internet; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 9:2798(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 9:2798(D)(4)

9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §2798. Limitation of liability of a volunteer athletic coach, manager, team volunteer

11 health care provider, or official; definitions

12 * * *

13 B.(1) The provisions of this Section shall not be applicable unless the

14 volunteer athletic coach, manager, athletic trainer, team volunteer health care

15 provider, or sports team official has participated in a safety orientation and training

16 program established by the league or team with which he is affiliated or a youth

17 injury mitigation course. Any safety orientation and training program established

1 in compliance with this Subsection may include, as a condition of satisfactory
2 completion, a course in child cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Participation in a safety
3 orientation and training program by a coach, manager, athletic trainer, team
4 volunteer health care provider, or sports team official may be waived by the league
5 prior to the individual's or person's participation in the sporting activities or in the
6 practice thereof upon submission of appropriate documented evidence as to that
7 individual's or person's proficiency in first aid and safety, which may include a
8 current certification in child cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

9 * * *

10 D. For the purposes of this Section, the following phrases shall have the
11 meanings hereafter ascribed to them:

12 * * *

13 **(4) "Youth injury mitigation course" means a course approved by the**
14 **Louisiana Department of Health that includes instruction in all of the following:**

15 **(a) Emergency preparedness and planning and rehearsal for responding**
16 **to traumatic injuries sustained during youth athletic activities.**

17 **(b) Concussions and head trauma.**

18 **(c) Heat and extreme weather-related injuries.**

19 **(d) Musculoskeletal overuse, physical conditioning, recovery, and**
20 **training equipment usage.**

21 **(e) Heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden cardiac death.**

22 Section 2. R.S. 40:1087.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

23 **§1087.2. Youth injury mitigation courses; approval process**

24 **A. The Louisiana Department of Health shall establish and administer**
25 **a process for approving courses that meet the requirements of a youth injury**
26 **mitigation course.**

27 **B. Completion of an approved youth injury mitigation course may be**
28 **used to satisfy the requirements of a safety orientation and training program in**

29 **R.S. 9:2798. Each youth injury mitigation course shall include instruction on**

1 **the following:**

2 **(1) Emergency preparedness and planning and rehearsal for responding**
3 **to traumatic injuries sustained during youth athletic activities.**

4 **(2) Heat and extreme weather-related injuries.**

5 **(3) Musculoskeletal overuse, physical conditioning, recovery, and**
6 **training equipment usage.**

7 **(4) Heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden cardiac death.**

8 **C. Not later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this**
9 **Section, the department shall publish and maintain on its official website a list**
10 **of approved courses. The department shall annually review and update the list**
11 **of approved injury mitigation courses.**

12 **D. The department may adopt rules, in accordance with the**
13 **Administrative Procedure Act, as necessary to carry out the provisions of this**
14 **Section.**

15 **E. This Section shall not require the department to spend its funds to pay**
16 **for the development of the training courses provided in this Section. The**
17 **department may spend donated funds to purchase the courses or may accept**
18 **donated online courses, provided that the donated courses are approved by the**
19 **department.**

20 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
21 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
22 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
24 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

athletic trainer, team volunteer health care provider, or sports team official who has participated in a safety orientation and training program established by the league or team with which he is affiliated.

Proposed law defines "youth injury mitigation course".

Proposed law adds a limitation of liability for certain volunteer athletic personnel who have completed a youth injury mitigation course.

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Department of Health shall establish and administer a process for approving courses that meet the requirements of a youth injury mitigation course.

Proposed law provides that completion of an approved youth injury mitigation course may be used to satisfy the requirements of a safety orientation and training program in present law (R.S. 9:2798).

Proposed law provides that each youth injury mitigation course shall include instruction on the following:

- (1) Emergency preparedness and planning and rehearsal for responding to traumatic injuries sustained during youth athletic activities.
- (2) Heat and extreme weather-related injuries.
- (3) Musculoskeletal overuse, physical conditioning, recovery, and training equipment usage.
- (4) Heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden cardiac death.

Proposed law provides that not later than 180 days after the effective date of proposed law, the department shall publish and maintain on its official website a list of approved courses. Further provides that the department shall annually review and update the list of approved injury mitigation courses.

Proposed law provides that the department may adopt rules, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, as necessary to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not require the department to spend its funds to pay for the development of the training courses provided in proposed law. Further provides that the department may spend donated funds to purchase the courses or may accept donated online courses, provided that the donated courses are approved by the department.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 9:2798(B)(1); adds R.S. 9:2798(D)(4) and R.S. 40:1087.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary A to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Requires the La. Dept. of Health to establish and administer an approval process for courses that meet the requirements of a youth injury mitigation course.

3. Provides the instruction requirements for each youth mitigation course.
4. Requires the department to publish and maintain on its website a list of approved injury mitigation courses, and to annually review and update the list.
5. Authorizes the department to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
6. Authorizes the department to spend donated funds to purchase courses or accept department approved, donated online courses.
7. Changes effective date from August 1, 2026 to upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.