DIGEST

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Roy HB No. 364

Abstract: Creates a comprehensive sports injury management program for student athletics.

Proposed law requires each school that sponsors or sanctions any athletic activity and which requires a participating student to regularly practice or train and compete to implement a sports injury management program.

Proposed law requires any elementary or secondary school which sponsors organized tackle football to ensure that at least one licensed athletic trainer is present at every inter-school game of tackle football.

Proposed law requires the sports injury management program to:

(1) Establish a set of injuries to be classified as "serious injuries" for the purposes of the program, and define the signs and symptoms of such injuries.

(2) Require that any coach, athletic trainer, or official remove a student from practice, training, or competition if any of the following circumstances occur:

(a) The student reports any defined sign or symptom of a serious injury.

(b) The coach, athletic trainer, or official determines that the student exhibits any defined sign or symptom of a serious injury.

(c) The coach or official is notified that the student has reported or exhibited any defined sign or symptom of a serious injury by a licensed, registered, or certified medical practitioner operating within their respective scope of practice, or any other licensed, registered, or certified individual whose scope of practice includes the recognition of symptoms associated with serious injuries.

Proposed law provides that any student who is removed from practice, training, or competition due to a serious injury:

(1) Shall, as soon as practicable after reporting or exhibiting any sign or symptom of a serious injury, be examined by a health professional duly licensed in this state to provide health care services or medical treatment.

(2) May be allowed to return to practice, training, or competition only after the student provides to the coach or athletic trainer written authorization from a health professional duly licensed in this state to provide health care services or medical treatment.

Proposed law requires that each coach or official in school-sponsored or school-sanctioned athletic activities receive biennial training regarding the nature and risk of serious sports-related injuries.

Proposed law requires that prior to a student participating in athletic activities, the student and student's parent or guardian must document that they have viewed information provided by the school district regarding risks of serious sports-related injuries.

Proposed law provides that provisions of proposed law do not create any liability for, or create a cause of action against, a school, its officers, or its employees.

Proposed law authorizes a school to contract for and accept private contributions, gifts, and grants, or in-kind aid from the federal government, the state, or any other source to implement the sports injury management program.

Proposed law requires BESE to promulgate rules in accordance with the APA to implement provisions of proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.181)