



# Kentucky Legislature



**HB281**  
**12RS**  
**WWW Version**

The hyperlink to a bill draft that precedes a summary contains the most recent version (Introduced/GA/Enacted) of the bill. If the session has ended, the hyperlink contains the latest version of the bill at the time of sine die adjournment. Note that the summary pertains to the bill as introduced, which is often different from the most recent version.

[HB 281 \(BR 256\) - J. Jenkins, R. Adams, L. Belcher, R. Bunch, T. Burch, J. Carney, L. Clark, H. Collins, R. Crimm, M. Dossett, T. Edmonds, C. Embry Jr., K. Flood, D. Ford, J. Glenn, D. Graham, J. Greer, S. Gregory, B. Housman, D. Keene, Ji. Lee, M. Marzian, T. McKee, C. Miller, R. Palumbo, J. Richards, C. Rollins II, S. Santoro, R. Smart, F. Steele, W. Stone, B. Waide, D. Watkins, J. Wayne, S. Westrom](#)

AN ACT relating to interscholastic athletics and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 160.445 to require coaches to complete training on recognizing and treating concussions and head injuries; identify actions required before an athlete with a suspected concussion or head injury may return to play; amend KRS 156.070 to conform; EMERGENCY.

[HB 281 - AMENDMENTS](#)

[SCS](#) - Retain original provisions except clarify who can conduct evaluation to determine if a concussion has occurred.

Jan 19-introduced in House  
 Jan 20-to Education (H)  
 Jan 24-posted in committee  
 Jan 31-reported favorably, 1st reading, to Calendar  
 Feb 1-2nd reading, to Rules; posted for passage in the Regular Orders of the Day for Thursday, February 2, 2012  
 Feb 2-3rd reading, passed 99-0; received in Senate  
 Feb 7-to Education (S)  
 Mar 22-reported favorably, 1st reading, to Consent Calendar with Committee Substitute  
 Mar 23-2nd reading, to Rules  
 Mar 26-posted for passage in the Consent Orders of the Day for Monday, March 26, 2012; 3rd reading, passed 36-0 with Committee Substitute  
 Mar 27-received in House; to Rules (H)  
 Mar 28-posted for passage for concurrence in Senate Committee Substitute ; House concurred in Senate Committee Substitute ; passed 93-0  
 Mar 29-enrolled, signed by Speaker of the House  
 Mar 30-enrolled, signed by President of the Senate; delivered to Governor

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AN ACT relating to interscholastic athletics and declaring an emergency.

***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. KRS 160.445 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education or organization or agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics shall require each interscholastic~~[high-school]~~ coach to complete a sports safety course consisting of training on how to prevent common injuries. The content of the course shall include but not be limited to emergency planning, heat and cold illnesses, emergency recognition, head injuries including concussions, neck injuries, facial injuries, and principles of first aid. The course shall also be focused on safety education and shall not include coaching principles.

(b)~~(2)~~ The state board or its agency shall:

1.~~(a)~~ Establish a minimum timeline for a coach to complete the course;

2.~~(b)~~ Approve providers of a sports safety course;

3.~~(c)~~ Be responsible for ensuring that an approved course is taught by qualified professionals who shall either be certified athletic trainers, registered nurses, physicians, or physician's assistants licensed to practice in Kentucky; and

4.~~(d)~~ Establish the minimum qualifying score for successful course completion.

(c)~~(3)~~ A course shall be reviewed for updates at least once every thirty (30) months and revised if needed.

(d)~~(4)~~ A course shall be able to be completed through hands-on or online teaching methods in ten (10) clock hours or less.

(e) 1.~~(5)(a)~~ A course shall include an end-of-course examination with a minimum qualifying score for successful course completion established by the board or its agency.

~~2.[(b)]~~ All coaches shall be required to take the end-of-course examination and shall obtain at least the minimum qualifying score.

~~(f) [(6)]~~ Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, and each year thereafter, at least one (1) person who has completed the course shall be at every interscholastic~~[high school]~~ athletic practice and competition.

(2) (a) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, and each year thereafter, the state board or its agency shall require each interscholastic coach to complete training on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The training shall be approved by the state board or its agency and may be included in the sports safety course required under subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(b) The board or its agency shall develop guidelines and other pertinent information or adopt materials produced by other agencies to inform and educate student athletes and their parents or legal guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the continuance of play after concussion or head injury. Any required physical examination and parental authorization shall include acknowledgement of the education information required under this paragraph.

(c) Upon request, the board or its agency shall make available to the public any training materials developed by the board or agency used to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection. The board or its agency shall not be held liable for the use of any training materials so disseminated.

(3) (a) A student athlete suspected by an interscholastic coach, school athletic personnel, or contest official of sustaining a concussion during an athletic practice or competition shall be removed from play at that time and shall

not return to play prior to the ending of the practice or competition until the athlete is evaluated to determine if a concussion has occurred. The evaluation shall be completed by a physician or a licensed health care provider whose scope of practice and training includes the evaluation and management of concussions and other brain injuries. A student athlete shall not return to play on the date of a suspected concussion absent the required evaluation.

(b) A student athlete may return to play if it is determined no concussion has occurred.

(c) A student athlete deemed to be concussed shall not return to participate in any athletic practice or competition occurring on the day of the injury. The injured student athlete shall not be allowed to participate in any subsequent practice or athletic competition unless written clearance from a physician is provided.

(4) (a) The state board or its agency shall adopt rules governing interscholastic athletics conducted by local boards of education to require each school that participates in interscholastic athletics to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan to deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall:

1. Include a delineation of role, methods of communication, available emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency transport; and

2. Be in writing, reviewed by the principal of the school, distributed to all appropriate personnel, posted conspicuously at all venues, and reviewed and rehearsed annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers

for interscholastic athletics.

(b) Each school shall submit annual written verification of the existence of a venue-specific emergency action plan to the state board or its agency.

(5) Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its compliance with this section and shall make the records available for review by the state board or its agency upon request.

➔Section 2. KRS 156.070 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and community education programs and services.
- (2) The Kentucky Board of Education may designate an organization or agency to manage interscholastic athletics in the common schools, provided that the rules, regulations, and bylaws of any organization or agency so designated shall be approved by the board, and provided further that any administrative hearing conducted by the designated managing organization or agency shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
  - (a) The state board or its designated agency shall assure through promulgation of administrative regulations that if a secondary school sponsors or intends to sponsor an athletic activity or sport that is similar to a sport for which National Collegiate Athletic Association members offer an athletic scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which a scholarship is offered. The administrative regulations shall specify which athletic activities are similar to sports for which National Collegiate Athletic Association members offer scholarships.
  - (b) Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the state board shall require any agency or organization designated by the state board to manage

interscholastic athletics to adopt bylaws that establish as members of the agency's or organization's board of control one (1) representative of nonpublic member schools who is elected by the nonpublic school members of the agency or organization from regions one (1) through eight (8) and one (1) representative of nonpublic member schools who is elected by the nonpublic member schools of the agency or organization from regions nine (9) through sixteen (16). The nonpublic school representatives on the board of control shall not be from classification A1 or D1 schools. Following initial election of these nonpublic school representatives to the agency's or organization's board of control, terms of the nonpublic school representatives shall be staggered so that only one (1) nonpublic school member is elected in each even-numbered year.

- (c) The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics shall not promulgate rules, administrative regulations, or bylaws that prohibit pupils in grades seven (7) to eight (8) from participating in any high school sports except for high school varsity soccer and football, or from participating on more than one (1) school-sponsored team at the same time in the same sport. The Kentucky Board of Education, or an agency designated by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, may promulgate administrative regulations restricting, limiting, or prohibiting participation in high school varsity soccer and football for students who have not successfully completed the eighth grade.
- (d) Every local board of education shall require an annual medical examination performed and signed by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or chiropractor, if performed within the professional's scope of practice, for each student seeking eligibility to participate in any ~~high~~ school athletic activity or sport. The Kentucky Board of Education or any

organization or agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics shall not promulgate administrative regulations or adopt any policies or bylaws that are contrary to the provisions of this paragraph.

- (e) Any student who turns nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1 shall not be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky. Any student who turns nineteen (19) years of age on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for that school year only. An exception to the provisions of this paragraph shall be made, and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if the student:
1. Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual education program developed by an admissions and release committee (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
  2. Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC committee recommendation; and
  3. Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility following initial promotion from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9).
- (f) 1. The state board or any agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics shall promulgate administrative regulations that permit a school district to employ or assign nonteaching or noncertified personnel or personnel without postsecondary education credit hours to serve in a coaching position. The administrative regulations shall give preference to the hiring or assignment of certified personnel in coaching positions.
2. A person employed in a coaching position shall be a high school graduate and at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall submit to a

criminal background check in accordance with KRS 160.380.

3. The administrative regulations shall specify post-hire requirements for persons employed in coaching positions.
  4. The regulations shall permit a predetermined number of hours of professional development training approved by the state board or its designated agency to be used in lieu of postsecondary education credit hour requirements.
  5. A local school board may specify post-hire requirements for personnel employed in coaching positions in addition to those specified in subparagraph 3. of this paragraph.
- (3) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education is hereby authorized to lease from the State Property and Buildings Commission, or others, whether public or private, any lands, buildings, structures, installations, and facilities suitable for use in establishing and furthering television and related facilities as an aid or supplement to classroom instruction, throughout the Commonwealth, and for incidental use in any other proper public functions. The lease may be for any initial term commencing with the date of the lease and ending with the next ensuing June 30, which is the close of the then-current fiscal biennium of the Commonwealth, with exclusive options in favor of the board to renew the same for successive ensuing bienniums, July 1 in each even year to June 30 in the next ensuing even year; and the rentals may be fixed at the sums in each biennium, if renewed, sufficient to enable the State Property and Buildings Commission to pay therefrom the maturing principal of and interest on, and provide reserves for, any revenue bonds which the State Property and Buildings Commission may determine to be necessary and sufficient, in agreement with the board, to provide the cost of acquiring the television and related facilities, with appurtenances, and costs as may be incident to the



issuance of the bonds.

- (b) Each option of the Kentucky Board of Education to renew the lease for a succeeding biennial term may be exercised at any time after the adjournment of the session of the General Assembly at which appropriations shall have been made for the operation of the state government for such succeeding biennial term, by notifying the State Property and Buildings Commission in writing, signed by the chief state school officer, and delivered to the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet as a member of the commission. The option shall be deemed automatically exercised, and the lease automatically renewed for the succeeding biennium, effective on the first day thereof, unless a written notice of the board's election not to renew shall have been delivered in the office of the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet before the close of business on the last working day in April immediately preceding the beginning of the succeeding biennium.
- (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall not itself operate leased television facilities, or undertake the preparation of the educational presentations or films to be transmitted thereby, but may enter into one (1) or more contracts to provide therefor, with any public agency and instrumentality of the Commonwealth having, or able to provide, a staff with proper technical qualifications, upon which agency and instrumentality the board, through the chief state school officer and the Department of Education, is represented in such manner as to coordinate matters of curriculum with the curricula prescribed for the public schools of the Commonwealth. Any contract for the operation of the leased television or related facilities may permit limited and special uses of the television or related facilities for other programs in the public interest, subject to the reasonable terms and conditions as the board and the operating agency and instrumentality may agree upon; but any

contract shall affirmatively forbid the use of the television or related facilities, at any time or in any manner, in the dissemination of political propaganda or in furtherance of the interest of any political party or candidate for public office, or for commercial advertising. No lease between the board and the State Property and Buildings Commission shall bind the board to pay rentals for more than one (1) fiscal biennium at a time, subject to the aforesaid renewal options. The board may receive and may apply to rental payments under any lease and to the cost of providing for the operation of the television or related facilities not only appropriations which may be made to it from state funds, from time to time, but also contributions, gifts, matching funds, devises, and bequests from any source, whether federal or state, and whether public or private, so long as the same are not conditioned upon any improper use of the television or related facilities in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection.

- (4) The state board may, on the recommendation and with the advice of the chief state school officer, prescribe, print, publish, and distribute at public expense such administrative regulations, courses of study, curriculums, bulletins, programs, outlines, reports, and placards as each deems necessary for the efficient management, control, and operation of the schools and programs under its jurisdiction. All administrative regulations published or distributed by the board shall be enclosed in a booklet or binder on which the words "informational copy" shall be clearly stamped or printed.
- (5) Upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer or his designee, the state board shall establish policy or act on all matters relating to programs, services, publications, capital construction and facility renovation, equipment, litigation, contracts, budgets, and all other matters which are the administrative responsibility of the Department of Education.

➔Section 3. Whereas it is necessary for the Kentucky Board of Education or its agency designated to manage interscholastic athletics to provide training and develop materials required under the provisions of this Act prior to the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.