

By: Lucio III, Bonnen of Galveston,  
Villarreal

H.B. No. 887

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to safety measures to protect students participating in athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.161 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.161. SPORTS INJURY PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The agency shall establish a sports injury pilot program for students participating in a University Interscholastic League athletic program to evaluate concussion prevention methods used for full-contact athletic drills or live game simulations or athletic competitions in which there is full contact among students. The commissioner shall select school districts of this state that are representative of all regions and sizes to participate in the program.

(b) The program must include:

(1) a preseason physical examination of a student athlete performed by a physician or another appropriate licensed health care professional acting under physician delegation;

(2) preseason neurocognitive baseline testing of a student athlete;

(3) a return-to-play protocol as described by this subchapter;

1           (4) post-injury neurocognitive testing of a student  
2 athlete;

3           (5) access to a physician, or another appropriate  
4 licensed health care professional acting under physician  
5 delegation, trained in the diagnosis and management of a  
6 concussion; and

7           (6) an excess accident insurance policy that is  
8 designed to cover the expenses related to the identification and  
9 treatment of a concussion.

10          (c) Not later than December 31, 2014, the commissioner shall  
11 review the pilot program established under this section and submit  
12 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house  
13 of representatives, and the Legislative Budget Board a written  
14 report regarding the progress made under the pilot program in the  
15 identification and treatment of concussions.

16          (d) Using funds appropriated or available for the purpose,  
17 the agency may contract with a school of public health or medicine  
18 in this state to scientifically evaluate the effectiveness of  
19 various methods of improving access to and quality of medical care  
20 for athletes who have sustained a concussion.

21          (e) This section expires September 1, 2017.

22          SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.