

By: Plesa

H.B. No. 3811

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to youth injury mitigation and information training for coaches and youth athletics personnel.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 13, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2053 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2053. COACHES AND ATHLETICS PERSONNEL

Sec. 2053.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Coach Safely Act.

Sec. 2053.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Association" means an organization that administers or conducts high-risk youth athletics activities on property owned, leased, managed, or maintained by this state, an agent of this state, or a state agency or political subdivision of this state.

(2) "Athletics personnel" means athletic directors and other persons actively involved in organizing, training, or coaching sports activities for youth who are younger than 15 years of age.

(3) "Coach" means:

(A) any individual, whether paid, unpaid, volunteer, or interim, who an association approves to organize, train, or supervise a youth athlete or team of youth athletes; or

(B) if an individual the association approves is

unavailable, an individual not approved by the association who is selected as a coach by a youth athlete or a team of youth athletes.

(4) "High-risk youth athletics activities" means any organized sport with a significant possibility for a youth athlete participating in the sport to sustain a serious physical injury, including:

- (A) baseball;
- (B) basketball;
- (C) cheerleading;
- (D) field hockey;
- (E) football;
- (F) ice hockey;
- (G) lacrosse;
- (H) soccer; and
- (I) volleyball.

(5) "Youth athlete" means an individual younger than 15 years of age who participates in an organized sport.

Sec. 2053.003. APPLICABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER.

(a) This chapter does not apply to:

- (1) athletic trainers;
- (2) physicians licensed to practice medicine in this state;
- (3) nurses licensed to practice nursing in this state;
- (4) first responders; and
- (5) any other health care professionals with acute traumatic life support training.

(b) This chapter does not:

1 (1) eliminate the involvement of athletic trainers at
2 youth athletic events; or

3 (2) impose any additional liability on political
4 subdivisions of this state.

5 Sec. 2053.004. TRAINING POLICY; YOUTH INJURY MITIGATION AND
6 INFORMATION COURSE. (a) A youth athletics association that
7 sponsors or conducts sports training or high-risk youth athletics
8 activities for youth athletes shall adopt a policy to require all
9 the association's coaches and athletics personnel to complete, if
10 available at no cost, a youth injury mitigation and information
11 course on actions and measures to decrease the likelihood of a youth
12 athlete sustaining a serious injury while engaged or participating
13 in a high-risk youth athletics activity. The course may be online
14 or in person and must be approved by the Department of State Health
15 Services.

16 (b) A youth injury mitigation and information course must
17 provide information on:

18 (1) emergency preparedness, planning, and rehearsal
19 for traumatic injuries;

20 (2) concussions and head trauma;

21 (3) heat and extreme weather-related injury
22 familiarization;

23 (4) physical conditioning and training equipment
24 usage; and

25 (5) heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden
26 cardiac arrest and death.

27 (c) A person required to complete a youth injury mitigation

and information course under this section must:

(1) complete the course not later than the 30th day following the date the person becomes actively engaged in or serves as a coach or member of the athletics personnel for an association; and

(2) annually complete the course not later than the anniversary of the date the person became actively engaged in serving as a coach or member of the athletics personnel for an association.

Sec. 2053.005. RECORDS OF COURSE COMPLETION. An association conducting a high-risk youth athletics activity or event that requires a coach or a member of the athletics personnel to complete a youth injury mitigation and information course under Section 2053.004 shall maintain a record of the individual's course completion during the period the person serves as a coach or member of the athletics personnel for that association.

Sec. 2053.006. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. A coach or member of the athletics personnel of an association is immune from civil liability for any injury sustained by a youth athlete as a result of participation in a high-risk youth athletics activity on establishing that the coach or member:

(1) completed the injury mitigation and information course required under Section 2053.004; and

(2) reasonably conformed their conduct to the safety techniques and methods identified in the course.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human

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1 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement
2 Chapter 2053, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.