

# ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Third Reprint]

## **SENATE, No. 1912**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 14, 2013

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No 1912 (3R) with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill would require public and nonpublic schools to require that any student enrolled in grades six to 12 have a physical examination prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad. The bill would require that the physical examination be conducted using the “Preparticipation Physical Evaluation” form, developed jointly by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine.

The physical examination required under the bill must be conducted within 365 days prior to the first day of official practice in an athletic season and must be conducted by a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant. If the exam is conducted more than 90 days prior to the first practice, the student also must submit a health history update questionnaire for review by the school nurse and, if applicable, the school athletic trainer, which includes certain medical history information with regard to the time period since the date of the student’s last preparticipation medical examination. Under the bill, a public or nonpublic school may not permit a student in grades six to 12 to participate in school-sponsored athletics unless the student has a completed Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form and, if applicable, a completed health history update questionnaire.

Current State Board of Education regulations require school districts to ensure that students in grades six to 12 have a physical examination prior to participation in school-sponsored athletics, with the findings of the examination documented on a form approved by the Commissioner of Education. This bill would require a physical exam for students in both public and nonpublic schools who participate in

athletics and would require schools to use the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form developed by six major American medical societies.

The bill also directs the Commissioners of Education and Health, in consultation with the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, the American Heart Association, and the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Cardiology to develop, by the 2013-2014 school year, a Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening professional development module to increase the assessment skills of those medical professionals who perform student-athlete assessments and screenings. The bill provides that the module and the pamphlet developed pursuant to P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) be posted on the websites of the Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, the Athletic Trainers' Society of New Jersey, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey State Board of Nursing, and the New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants.

Under the bill, a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant who performs a student-athlete's annual physical examination prior to the student's participation in a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad must complete the Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening professional development module. The Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form would also include a certification statement, to be signed by the health care practitioner who performs the physical examination attesting to the completion of the module. The board of education and the governing board or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school will retain the signed statement to attest to the qualification of the health care practitioner to perform the physical examination.

P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41), which was approved on August 6, 2007, directed the Commissioner of Education to develop a pamphlet that provides information about sudden cardiac death, its early warning signs, and its incidence among student athletes. The commissioner was to make the pamphlet available at no charge to all school districts, and in each school year, a school district was to distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students participating in school sports. This bill amends P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) to provide that beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, a pamphlet providing information about sudden cardiac arrest will be distributed to a student athlete and to his parents or guardians at the time of the student's preparticipation physical examination and completion of athletic permission forms. Both the student and his parents or guardians will certify in writing that they received and reviewed the pamphlet.

The committee amended the bill to:

- 1) change the term "medical examination" to "physical examination"; and

2) eliminate the requirement that a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant who performs preparticipation physical examinations of student-athletes, attest to the respective licensing board at the time of the renewal of a license, certification, or registration, as applicable, that he has completed the Student-Athlete Cardiac Screening professional development module developed under the bill. Rather, the amendments require that the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form include a certification statement that will be signed by the physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant who performs the physical examination attesting to the fact that he has completed the professional development module. Under the amendments, the signed certification statement will be retained by the board of education of a public school district or the governing board or chief school administrator of the nonpublic school rather than the Commissioner of Education.