

First Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 11-0016.02 Kristen Forrestal

**SENATE BILL 11-040**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Spence and Newell,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Summers and Todd,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Health and Human Services

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT THAT A COACH OF AN ORGANIZED**  
102 **YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY FOLLOW CONCUSSION GUIDELINES,**  
103 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE "JAKE**  
104 **SNAKENBERG YOUTH CONCUSSION ACT".**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Each public and private middle school, junior high school, or high school, and each private club or recreation facility is directed to require

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 22, 2011

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 21, 2011

each coach with primary supervisory responsibility for a youth athletic activity to complete annual concussion recognition education. The education must include:

- ! Information on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion;
- ! The means of obtaining proper medical attention for a person suspected of having a concussion; and
- ! Information on the nature and risk of concussions.

If the coach suspects that a youth athlete has sustained a concussion, the bill requires the coach to immediately remove the youth athlete from a game, competition, or practice. Unless the signs or symptoms of a concussion can be readily explained by another condition, the youth athlete is not permitted to return to the game, competition, or practice unless the youth athlete has been evaluated by a health care provider and has received written clearance to return to play from the licensed health care provider.

The bill provides limited immunity to volunteer coaches and other individuals who assist as volunteers for youth athletic activities and to members of the board of directors or governing boards of a school district, private club, or recreation facility.

A youth athletic activity includes an organized athletic activity where the majority of the participants are 11 years of age or older and under 19 years of age.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 25, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY  
3 **THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE** to read:

4 **ARTICLE 43**

5 **Required Head Trauma Guidelines**

6 **25-43-101. Short title.** THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY  
7 **BE CITED AS THE "JAKE SNAKENBERG YOUTH CONCUSSION ACT".**

8 **25-43-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
9 **CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:**

10 **(1) "HEALTH CARE PROVIDER" MEANS A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE,**  
11 **DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE, LICENSED NURSE PRACTITIONER,**  
12 **LICENSED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, OR LICENSED DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY**

1 WITH TRAINING IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY OR CONCUSSION EVALUATION AND  
2 MANAGEMENT.

3 (2) "PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY" MEANS A RECREATION  
4 FACILITY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE STATE OF COLORADO OR A POLITICAL  
5 SUBDIVISION THEREOF.

6 (3) "YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY" MEANS AN ORGANIZED ATHLETIC  
7 ACTIVITY WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE ELEVEN YEARS  
8 OF AGE OR OLDER AND UNDER NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND ARE  
9 ENGAGING IN AN ORGANIZED ATHLETIC GAME OR COMPETITION AGAINST  
10 ANOTHER TEAM, CLUB, OR ENTITY OR IN PRACTICE OR PREPARATION FOR  
11 AN ORGANIZED GAME OR COMPETITION AGAINST ANOTHER TEAM, CLUB, OR  
12 ENTITY. A "YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE COLLEGE OR  
13 UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES. "YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE  
14 AN ACTIVITY THAT IS ENTERED INTO FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES ONLY,  
15 AN ATHLETIC ACTIVITY THAT IS INCIDENTAL TO A NONATHLETIC PROGRAM,  
16 OR A LESSON.

17 **25-43-103. Organized school athletic activities - concussion**  
18 **guidelines required.** (1) (a) EACH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL,  
19 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL SHALL REQUIRE EACH COACH OF  
20 A YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES INTERSCHOLASTIC PLAY TO  
21 COMPLETE AN ANNUAL CONCUSSION RECOGNITION EDUCATION COURSE.

22 (b) EACH PRIVATE CLUB OR PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY AND  
23 EACH ATHLETIC LEAGUE THAT SPONSORS YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES  
24 SHALL REQUIRE EACH VOLUNTEER COACH FOR A YOUTH ATHLETIC  
25 ACTIVITY AND EACH COACH WITH WHOM THE CLUB, FACILITY, OR LEAGUE  
26 DIRECTLY CONTRACTS WITH, FORMALLY ENGAGES, OR EMPLOYS WHO  
27 COACHES A YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITY TO COMPLETE AN ANNUAL

1 CONCUSSION RECOGNITION EDUCATION COURSE.

2 (2) (a) THE CONCUSSION RECOGNITION EDUCATION COURSE  
3 REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE  
4 FOLLOWING:

5 (I) INFORMATION ON HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS AND  
6 SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION;

7 (II) THE MEANS OF OBTAINING PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR  
8 A PERSON SUSPECTED OF HAVING A CONCUSSION; AND

9 (III) INFORMATION ON THE NATURE AND RISK OF CONCUSSIONS,  
10 INCLUDING THE DANGER OF CONTINUING TO PLAY AFTER SUSTAINING A  
11 CONCUSSION AND THE PROPER METHOD OF ALLOWING A YOUTH ATHLETE  
12 WHO HAS SUSTAINED A CONCUSSION TO RETURN TO ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.

13 (b) AN ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION OF WHICH A SCHOOL OR  
14 SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A MEMBER MAY DESIGNATE SPECIFIC EDUCATION  
15 COURSES AS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (1)  
16 OF THIS SECTION.

17 (3) IF A COACH WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE CONCUSSION  
18 RECOGNITION EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION  
19 SUSPECTS THAT A YOUTH ATHLETE HAS SUSTAINED A CONCUSSION  
20 FOLLOWING AN OBSERVED OR SUSPECTED BLOW TO THE HEAD OR BODY IN  
21 A GAME, COMPETITION, OR PRACTICE, THE COACH SHALL IMMEDIATELY  
22 REMOVE THE ATHLETE FROM THE GAME, COMPETITION, OR PRACTICE.

23 (4) (a) IF A YOUTH ATHLETE IS REMOVED FROM PLAY PURSUANT  
24 TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS  
25 CANNOT BE READILY EXPLAINED BY A CONDITION OTHER THAN  
26 CONCUSSION, THE SCHOOL COACH OR PRIVATE OR PUBLIC RECREATIONAL  
27 FACILITY'S DESIGNATED PERSONNEL SHALL NOT PERMIT THE YOUTH

1 ATHLETE TO RETURN TO PLAY OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUPERVISED TEAM  
2 ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PHYSICAL EXERTION, INCLUDING GAMES,  
3 COMPETITIONS, OR PRACTICES, UNTIL HE OR SHE IS EVALUATED BY A  
4 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND RECEIVES WRITTEN CLEARANCE TO RETURN  
5 TO PLAY FROM THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER  
6 EVALUATING A YOUTH ATHLETE SUSPECTED OF HAVING A CONCUSSION OR  
7 BRAIN INJURY MAY BE A VOLUNTEER.

8 (b) AN ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION OF WHICH A SCHOOL OR  
9 SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A MEMBER, A PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOL, A PRIVATE  
10 CLUB, A PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY, OR AN ATHLETIC LEAGUE MAY  
11 ALLOW A REGISTERED ATHLETIC TRAINER TO MANAGE THE GRADUATED  
12 RETURN TO PLAY AND PROVIDE CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO PLAY  
13 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4) AFTER THE  
14 CONCUSSED ATHLETE HAS BEEN EVALUATED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER  
15 AND HAS BEEN RELEASED TO THE CARE OF THE ATHLETIC TRAINER WITH  
16 SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATHLETE'S CONDITION.

17 (5) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE ABROGATES OR LIMITS THE  
18 PROTECTIONS APPLICABLE TO PUBLIC ENTITIES AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
19 PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY ACT",  
20 ARTICLE 10 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S.; VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD MEMBERS  
21 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13-21-115.7 AND 13-21-116, C.R.S.; OR SKI AREA  
22 OPERATORS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 33-44-112 AND 33-44-113, C.R.S.

23 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
24 shall take effect January 1, 2012; except that, if a referendum petition is  
25 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against  
26 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
27 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,

1 section, or part shall not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
2 general election to be held in November 2012 and shall take effect on  
3 January 1, 2012, or on the date of the official declaration of the vote  
4 thereon by the governor, whichever is later.