

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 792

Short Title: Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Folwell, Cook, McGrady, and Glazier (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Education.

April 7, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE GFELLER-WALLER CONCUSSION AWARENESS ACT.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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5 **TITLE OF ACT.**

6 **SECTION 1.** This act may be known and cited as the Gfeller-Waller Concussion
7 Awareness Act.

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9 **DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATHLETIC CONCUSSION SAFETY TRAINING**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 **SECTION 2.(a)** The Matthew A. Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury
12 Research Center at UNC-Chapel Hill in consultation with the North Carolina Medical Society,
13 the North Carolina Athletic Trainers Association, the Brain Injury Association of North
14 Carolina, the North Carolina Neuropsychological Society, the North Carolina High School
15 Athletic Association, Inc., and the Department of Public Instruction, shall develop an athletic
16 concussion safety training program. The program shall be developed for the use of coaches,
17 school nurses, school athletic directors, volunteers, students who participate in interscholastic
18 athletic activities in the public schools, and the parents of these students.

19 **SECTION 2.(b)** The program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 20 (1) Written information detailing the recognition of the signs and symptoms of
21 concussions and other head injuries.
22 (2) A description of the physiology and the potential short-term and long-term
23 effects of concussions and other head injuries.
24 (3) The medical return-to-play protocol for postconcussion participation in
25 extracurricular athletics.

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27 **CONCUSSION SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC**
28 **COMPETITION.**

29 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-12(23) reads as rewritten:

30 "(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –
31 The State Board of Education may adopt rules governing interscholastic
32 athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including
33 eligibility for student participation. With regard to middle schools and high
34 schools, the rules shall provide for the following:



1 a. All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders,
2 volunteers, students who participate in interscholastic athletic
3 activities, and the parents of those students shall receive, on an
4 annual basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet. School
5 employees, volunteers, and students must sign the sheet and return it
6 to the coach before they can participate in interscholastic athletic
7 activities, including tryouts, practices, or competition. Parents must
8 sign the sheet and return it to the coach before their children can
9 participate in any such extracurricular athletic activities. The signed
10 sheets shall be maintained in accordance with sub-subdivision d. of
11 this subdivision.

12 For the purpose of this subdivision, a concussion is a traumatic
13 brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that
14 results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not
15 result in loss of consciousness.

16 b. If an athlete participating in an extracurricular athletic activity
17 exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the athlete
18 shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be
19 allowed to return to play or practice that day. The athlete shall not
20 return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the athlete is
21 evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation
22 from (i) a licensed medical physician with training in concussion
23 management or (ii) one of the following health care providers who
24 has training in concussion management and is working in
25 consultation with one of the following medical physicians: a
26 neuropsychologist, a licensed athletic trainer, a licensed physician's
27 assistant, or a licensed nurse practitioner.

28 c. Each school shall develop a school specific emergency action plan to
29 deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the
30 condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall
31 include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available
32 emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency
33 transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic
34 trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of
35 the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted
36 conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed
37 annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,
38 school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for extracurricular
39 athletic activities.

40 d. Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its
41 compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to
42 head injuries.

43 The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to
44 apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic
45 athletic activities at the high school level."

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47 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

48 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
49 the 2011-2012 school year.