

SENATE, No. 1114

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes task force to examine issues and make recommendations concerning youth sports, including abusive coaching, confrontational parents, and bullying of players.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing a Youth Sports Task Force to examine various
2 issues associated with youth sports.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. There is established a Youth Sports Task Force for the
8 purpose of examining, evaluating, and making recommendations
9 regarding youth sports.

10 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

11 (1) six members, two of whom shall be appointed by the Senate
12 President, two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
13 General Assembly, and two of whom shall be appointed by the
14 Governor, who each have a background in, or special knowledge of,
15 the legal, policy, educational, social, or psychological aspects of
16 bullying;

17 (2) four members of the public, to be appointed by the
18 Governor, including: the parent or guardian of a student-athlete who
19 participates in an interscholastic sports program; the parent or
20 guardian of an athlete who participates in youth sports events as
21 defined in section 1 of P.L.2002, c.74 (C.5:17-1); the parent or
22 guardian of an athlete who participates in youth sports activities
23 sponsored by a for-profit entity; and a youth who was a victim of
24 harassment, intimidation, or bullying while participating in youth
25 sports; and

26 (3) three coaches to be appointed by the Governor, including: a
27 coach of an interscholastic sports program; a coach of youth sports
28 events; and a coach of youth sports activities sponsored by a for-
29 profit entity.

30 c. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
31 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The
32 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and
33 shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task
34 force.

35 d. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30
36 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership
37 of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointments were made.

39 e. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation,
40 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the
41 performance of their duties as members of the task force within the
42 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task
43 force for its purposes.

44 f. The Department of Education shall provide stenographic,
45 clerical, and other administrative assistants, and professional staff
46 as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force also
47 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the
48 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal

- 1 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require
2 and as may be available for its purposes.
3
- 4 2. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and consider
5 issues in regard to youth sports including, but not limited to, the
6 following:
- 7 (1) protection for parents, guardians, and athletes from
8 unscrupulous business practices conducted by for-profit entities
9 sponsoring youth sports activities;
 - 10 (2) financial oversight to strengthen the business practices of
11 youth sports team organizations, as defined in section 5 of
12 P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.5), and for-profit entities that sponsor
13 youth sports;
 - 14 (3) training for coaches to recognize the signs and symptoms of
15 harassment, intimidation, and bullying;
 - 16 (4) ways to acknowledge and promote youth sports as an
17 extension of the classroom;
 - 18 (5) developing training workshops for parents and guardians to
19 recognize the signs and symptoms of harassment, intimidation,
20 bullying, and abusive coaching, and on proper spectator conduct;
21 and
 - 22 (6) protection for sports officials from abusive behavior while
23 engaged in the performance of their duties.
- 24 b. The task force shall hold at least one public hearing during
25 the course of its work in order to receive public input on the issues
26 being studied by the task force.
27
- 28 3. The task force shall issue a final report of its findings and
29 recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant
30 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one
31 year after the task force organizes.
32
- 33 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force
34 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.