



# IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

## AMENDMENT SUMMARY Concussion Reporting and Return to Play HF 2442

---

**Status of Bill:** On House Floor with Senate Amendment

**Committee:** Education, Passed House 96-1, Passed Senate 49-0

**Research Analyst:** David Epley; (515) 281-6367; david.epley@legis.iowa.gov

**Lead Democrat:** Brown-Powers

**Floor Manager:** Jones

---

### Senate Amendment Summary, H-8363 to HF 2442

The amendment contains the following operations:

- 1): Strikes the requirement in the bill to have the Department of Public Health (DPH) coordinate with the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSA) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Association (IGHSA) disseminate a return-to-learn protocol. Iowa law 280.13C already requires Iowa athletic unions to disseminate information to educate coaches, students, and the parents and guardians of students of the risks, signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury.
- 2), 8), 12), 14), 15), 16), 17), 18): The amendment adds a definition of “Emergency Medical Care Provider” which would be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). It then adds EMT’s throughout the bill as a professional that can evaluate a student athlete for a concussion, and the liability sections .
- 3), 4), 13): Strikes the current definition of Extracurricular Interscholastic Activity (the sports or activities that would warrant extra practices) contained in the bill. Those currently in the bill include any extracurricular interscholastic activity or practice including sports, dance and cheerleading. The new definition would be defined as contact or limited contact activity identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics and dance or cheerleading.
- 5) Currently under the bill, the School Board or accredited nonpublic school authorities would receive the proof of completed training by the coach or contest official on concussions and brain injuries including evaluation, prevention, symptoms, risks and long-term effects. Under the amendment the IHSA and the IGHSA would receive the proof.
- 6): Technical wording change on the effective date of the protocols.
- 7): Currently in the bill, the effected grades of the concussion protocols are grades K-12. The amendment changes this to grades 7-12.
- 9): Technical.
- 10): The amendment rewrites the “Return to Plan Protocol and Return to Learn Plans” language. DPH in coordination with the IHSA and the IGHSA would be required to develop a “Return to Play” protocols. Currently the bill also includes the Department of Education in that group. Under the amendment, DPH would become the lead agency in developing a “Return to Play” protocols, and they would adopted by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools by July 1, 2019. The “Return to Learn” plan would be developed by personnel of a school district or accredited nonpublic school based on the Brain Injury

Association of America in cooperation with a student removed from the activity due to concussion or brain injury, the student's parent or guardian and the student's health care provider. The plan would be made to accommodate the student as they return to the classroom.

11): Technical.

16): Besides adding EMT as a professional that can evaluate a student athlete for a concussion, the amendment adds additional liability coverage. A school district or accredited non-public school under the amendment would not be liable for any claim for injuries or damages if an EMT or Licensed Health Care Provider who was scheduled to be present at a contest is not able to be present and available due to unforeseen circumstances and the school district or accredited nonpublic otherwise followed the protocol.

20): If the DPH rules adopted to enact the policy has not become effective by July 1, 2019, the school district or accredited nonpublic school will adopt the return to play protocol for grades 7-12 as soon as practicable after such rules become effective.

### **H-8375 to H-8363 by Jones and Brown-Powers, (Amendment to the Senate Amendment)**

Operations of the amendment to the Senate amendment:

1): The "Extracurricular Interscholastic Activity" would be for dance, cheer or any activity, contest or practice governed by the IHSA and the IGHSA. The amendment also deletes the definition of the contact or limited activity identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

2): Technical

3) and 4): Under the extended liability under operation #16 of the Senate amendment, the amendment adds that the scheduled event with the health care provider or EMT, would be someone who is under a prearranged agreement with the school district or accredited nonpublic school. Also the "unforeseen circumstance" must be documented.