

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DYLAN STEIGERS PROTECTION OF YOUTH ATHLETES ACT; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 65TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the 63rd Legislature enacted the Dylan Steigers Protection of Youth Athletes Act requiring school districts to adopt policies and procedures for minimizing the risk of brain injuries due to sports-related concussions; and

WHEREAS, brain science, concussion protocols, and brain injury prevention measures continue to rapidly evolve; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of any policy requirement for Montana school districts warrants an examination due to the vast differences between our school districts in terms of availability of health care resources, human resources, financial resources, and geography; and

WHEREAS, there is no more compelling state interest than the health and safety of Montana's greatest natural resource, our young people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the implementation of the Dylan Steigers Protection of Youth Athletes Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:

- (1) examine the manner in which school districts have implemented policies, including:



- 1 (a) an inventory of districts that have and have not implemented policies;
- 2 (b) a review of the content of school district policies;
- 3 (c) an investigation into the number of youth athletes who have been removed from participation due to
- 4 their exhibition of signs consistent with concussion;
- 5 (d) the effectiveness of the training programs used by school districts to provide information to trainers,
- 6 coaches, officials, athletes, and parents or guardians;
- 7 (e) the protocols and evaluation tools used by different school districts in assessing whether a youth
- 8 athlete has sustained a concussion; and
- 9 (f) the means by which youth athletes in different school districts are receiving clearance to return to
- 10 participation following a concussion;
- 11 (2) investigate emerging technologies to evaluate brain injuries in student athletes, including
- 12 technologies to evaluate a student athlete's ability to return to participation;
- 13 (3) compare the implementation of school district policies and procedures with the latest medical and
- 14 scientific information regarding concussion and brain injury;
- 15 (4) if the committee determines that policies are being implemented inconsistently across the state or
- 16 in a manner inconsistent with the latest medical and scientific information regarding concussion and brain injury,
- 17 investigate ways that these inconsistencies can be addressed, including but not limited to:
- 18 (a) statutory changes;
- 19 (b) requiring the use of specific protocols and evaluation tools; and
- 20 (c) seeking resources for districts not able to implement policies consistent with current best practices;
- 21 and
- 22 (5) examine any other aspect of this issue as it relates to ensuring the safety of Montana youth athletes
- 23 as determined by the assigned committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review

25 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2016.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,

27 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 65th Legislature.

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