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Senate Bill 278 (Substitute S-1)
Sponsor: Senator Bill Schuette
Committee: Education

Date Completed: 10-25-01

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to require that school athletic coaches hold valid certification in sport safety training. The board of a school district or public school academy would have to require each new person it employed or assigned as an interscholastic athletic coach to meet this requirement.

Coaches would have to complete training in sport safety offered by the American Red Cross or complete an equivalent course approved by the State Board of Education. Certification would be current during the entire interscholastic season for the athletic activity a person was coaching. At least once every two years, coaches would have to provide documentation to their school board or board of directors demonstrating their valid, continuing certification. If a coach did not provide this documentation, the board could not allow him or her to coach an interscholastic athletic activity.

People already employed or serving as interscholastic coaches on or before the effective date of the bill would be exempt from the training requirement. In addition, training would not be required if a coach had a physical limitation that made it impractical for him or her to complete the course and obtain the certification.

Under the bill, coaches with valid sport safety certification would not be liable in a civil suit for damages resulting from an act or omission in the course of providing physical aid on the job, except for an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

Proposed MCL 380.1523

Legislative Analyst: C. Layman

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: J. Carrasco

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.