

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1653 (Sanchez) – As Amended March 30, 2023

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires, no later than July 1, 2024, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE), to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety standards for the prevention and management of exertional heat illness.

In addition, this bill requires any school electing to offer an interscholastic athletic program to ensure that procedures related to heat illness are included in its existing written emergency action plan.

Specifically, this bill requires CIF to develop guidelines to identify the environmental conditions at which a school must limit and prohibit practice and play. The guidelines are to include information regarding the accurate measurement of environmental heat stress at the site of the athletic activity, including the use of Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). The guidelines are also to identify the environmental conditions at which a school shall have a method to institute whole-body cooling to treat a student athlete with exertional heat illness.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Minor and absorbable costs to CIF to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety standards for the prevention and management of exertional heat illness. CIF is not funded using state funds, though a portion of its revenue is generated by fees from participating schools, as described in more detail in Comment #1.
- 2) Minor and absorbable General Fund costs to CDE to consult with CIF on the guidelines.
- 3) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to CIF member schools to adhere to the regulations this bill requires CIF to develop. Member schools likely will need to purchase a WBGT and some may need to purchase a whole-body cooling mechanism to comply with regulations to maintain their CIF membership. A WBGT costs between \$500 and \$600. A whole-body cooling mechanism can range in cost, depending on how sophisticated the mechanism (for example, an ice bath versus an existing cold shower) but would likely average in the low hundreds of dollars per school. According to CIF, it provided 400 WBGTs to member schools last year. If the remaining 1,200 member schools need to purchase WBGTs as a result of this bill, costs would be about \$660,000 statewide. If half of member schools need to purchase a whole-body cooling mechanism as a result of this bill, costs would be about \$160,000.

- 4) Minor one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to a school offering interscholastic athletic programs to ensure that procedures related to heat illness is included in its existing written emergency action plan.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** The CIF governs competitive athletics in California for grades nine through twelve. The CIF is organized under CDE and is governed by a council consisting of high school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, educators, and other organizations. Amongst other duties, the CIF adopts rules and regulations for school athletics and enforces them. 1,600 schools are members of CIF, meaning the schools adhere to CIF rules and regulations. Over 760,000 student-athletes participate in athletics at CIF member schools annually. CIF views the development of guidelines such as those required in this bill as part of its core mission.

With the exception of some one-time funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CIF receives no state funding. The CIF is funded primarily from (a) membership fees from member schools (\$0.88 per student), which likely comes from member schools' Proposition 98 General Fund general purpose funding, (b) corporate sponsorships, and (c) CIF event ticket sales.

- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 245 (McKinnor) of this session would require the High School Coaching Education and Training Program to include training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest.

AB 1327 (Weber) of this session would require CIF to report to the Legislature annually, and for the report to include instances of hate violence; and, requires CIF to develop, in consultation with community organizations that represent the interests of ethnic groups and communities of color, a standardized incident form to track hate violence that occurs at high school sporting games or sporting events, and annually post those results on CIF's website.

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