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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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### **AB 1653 (Sanchez) - Interscholastic athletic programs: emergency action plans: heat illness: guidelines**

**Version:** March 30, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 14, 2023

**Policy Vote:** ED. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill requires 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 by July 1, 2024.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- This bill could result in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs for schools follow any new regulations that are developed by the CIF. Specifically, schools may need to purchase a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) and whole-body cooling mechanisms to comply with the new regulations to maintain their CIF membership. A WBGT can cost between \$500 and \$600, while a whole-body cooling mechanism can be in the low hundreds of dollars. Depending on the number of schools that would need to purchase WBGTs and whole-body cooling mechanisms, statewide costs could be the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Schools may also incur one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs to update their existing emergency action plans to include any new procedures related to heat illness. However, these costs are expected to be minor.
- Any costs to the CIF and CDE to develop the guidelines are anticipated to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

**Background:** Existing law requires each high school sports coach to complete a coaching education program developed by their school district or the CIF that meets the guidelines outlined in the California High School Coaching Education and Training Program (CHSCTP). The law also states that the Legislature intends that school districts administer CHSCTP and emphasizes specified components, including certification in CPR and first aid, including, but not limited to, a basic understanding of the signs and symptoms of concussions and heat illness and the appropriate response to concussions and heat illness. Concussion or heat illness training may be fulfilled through entities offering free, online, or other training courses. "Heat illness" includes cramps, syncope, exhaustion, and exertional heat stroke.

Existing law requires an LEA or charter school that elects to offer any interscholastic athletic program, the governing board of the school district or the governing body of the charter school shall ensure that there is a written emergency action plan in place that describes the location and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac

arrest and other medical emergencies related to the athletic program's activities or events.

The CIF governs competitive athletics for high schools in California. It is organized under CDE and 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. There are approximately 1,600 schools that are members of the CIF, with over 760,000 student-athletes participating in athletics at these schools each year.

**Proposed Law:** This bill requires the CIF, in consultation with CDE, to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety standards for the prevention and management of exertional heat illness no later than July 1, 2024.

This bill provides that the guidelines developed by CIF must identify the environmental conditions at which a school shall limit and prohibit the practice and play and 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) to determine ambient temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation from the sun, including sun angle and cloud cover. The bill also specifies that the guidelines must 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, especially heat stroke, that is easily accessible at all practice and contest venues.

**Related Legislation:** AB 245 (McKionnor, 2023) would add to the California High School Coaching Education and Training Program (CHSCTP) by July 1, 2024, training in recognizing and responding to the signs and symptoms of concussions, heart illness, and cardiac arrest. This bill is pending on the Senate Floor.

AB 2800 (Chu, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2018) added training on understanding the signs and symptoms of heat illness and the appropriate response to the CHSCTP.

AB 2009 (Maienschein, Chapter 646, Statutes of 2018) required a school district or charter school that elects to offer any interscholastic athletic program to ensure that there is a written emergency action plan in place and acquire at least one automated external defibrillator for each school for emergency care in the event of cardiac arrest and other related medical emergencies.

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