

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1653 (Sanchez)

As Amended September 8, 2023

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Interscholastic Foundation (CIF), in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE), to develop guidelines, procedures and safety standards for monitoring the safety of practice and play when wet bulb globe thermometer (WBGT) readings reach specified levels, no later than July 1, 2024; and requires the governing board of the school district or the governing body of the charter school to ensure that there is a written emergency action plan in place that describes the location and procedures to be followed in the event of heat illness related to the athletic program's activities or events.

Senate Amendments

Require concurrent enactment with AB 247 (McKinnor) to require, by July 1, 2024, the school emergency action plan to include a description of the manner and frequency at which the procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest and other medical emergencies, including concussion and heat illness will be rehearsed.

COMMENTS

Emergency action plans. Existing law requires, if a school district or charter school elects to offer any interscholastic athletic program, the governing board of the school district or the governing body of the charter school to 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. Currently law requires the written emergency action plan to be posted in compliance with the most recent pertinent guidelines of the National Federation of State High School Associations. This bill adds heat stroke to the list of items included in the written emergency action plan.

Practice/play policy using wet bulb globe thermometer readings. According to the National Weather Service, a WBGT is a measure of the heat stress in direct sunlight, which takes into account: temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle, and cloud cover (solar radiation). This differs from the heat index, which takes into consideration temperature and humidity and is calculated for shady areas.

Using a WBGT monitor on-site provides more accurate data than that from the National Weather Service and can help athletic programs to dictate modifications in activity (work/rest ratios, hydration breaks, equipment work, length of practice) that make sports safer for all participants.

Research indicates that when establishing WBGT guidelines for physical activity, the guidelines must be geographic specific. For example, an athlete playing football in Louisiana may be accustomed to warm environmental conditions, unlike a football player from Maine. A football player practicing in 90°F temperatures in Louisiana could be comfortable whereas a football player practicing in the same conditions in Maine could be experiencing the worst conditions they have felt all year, which would increase the risk of heat illness. (University of Connecticut Korey Stringer Institute)



Researchers established heat safety regions to address the differences in heat acclimation among residents in these areas. Below is a map of the United States heat safety zones that can be used to read the activity guideline chart. Using the heat safety zones, along with readings from a wet bulb globe thermometer, the following recommendations were established by the University of Connecticut Korey Stringer Institute.

According to the Author

"Heat illness has become a leading cause of death for our student athletes. Parents and schools need all the tools they can to help ensure student athletes are able to practice and play their sports under reasonably safe conditions. That's why I've introduced AB 1653, to help provide schools with more tools to be better prepared for emergencies related to heat illness."

Arguments in Support

CleanEarth4Kids.org states, "Heat illness can progress quickly in athletes and early warning signs of heat stroke can be subtle. Heat strokes are a very dangerous medical emergency as body and brain cells begin to die when the core temperature is very high. Early recognition and rapid treatment of an evolving heat stroke can save lives. Many environmental and personal factors contribute to heat stroke so being prepared with a written emergency action plan in the case of heat illness should be required for all schools."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) 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.

- 2) Any costs to the CIF and CDE to develop the guidelines are anticipated to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

VOTES:

ASM EDUCATION: 6-0-1

YES: Muratsuchi, Megan Dahle, Juan Carrillo, Hoover, Lee, Quirk-Silva

ABS, ABST OR NV: McCarty

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-1

YES: Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Pellerin, Sanchez, Weber, Ortega

ABS, ABST OR NV: Robert Rivas

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 80-0-0

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Connolly, Megan Dahle, Davies, Dixon, Essayli, Flora, Mike Fong, Vince Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Holden, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lackey, Lee, Low, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Jim Patterson, Joe Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Santiago, Schiavo, Soria, Ta, Ting, Valencia, Villapudua, Waldron, Wallis, Ward, Weber, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Zbur, Rendon

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Atkins, Becker, Blakespear, Bradford, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, Menjivar, Min, Newman, Nguyen, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Seyarto, Skinner, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Wiener, Wilk

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caballero

UPDATED

VERSION: September 8, 2023

CONSULTANT: Chelsea Kelley / ED. / (916) 319-2087

FN: 0002403