

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1665 (Pacheco, et al.)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

AB 1665, commencing with the 2027-28 school year, requires coaches for interscholastic athletic programs at high schools that are members of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to complete an initial training, and subsequent training every two years, on a coaching education and training program on mental health. The bill also requires local educational agencies (LEA) to ensure coaches of non-interscholastic athletic programs complete an initial training, and subsequent training every two years, covering sudden cardiac arrest and youth athletics behavioral and mental health, if the LEA chooses to offer a non-interscholastic athletic program.

Senate Amendments

Senate amendments add double jointing language for this bill and AB 1626 (Gabriel), including adding contingent enactment language.

COMMENTS

Background. This bill, along with AB 1626 (Gabriel, 2026) and AB 1985 (Irwin, 2026), recognizes the unique role that athletic coaches have in young athletes' lives and aims to equip coaches with the tools and the understanding so that they can appropriately respond and provide support to young men and women during an age when this support is critical. This bill and AB 1626 (Gabriel, 2026) address providing mental health training for athletic coaches in K-12 schools and youth organizations, while AB 1985 (Irwin, 2026) aims to provide mental health training for athletic coaches at the collegiate level.

This bill and AB 1626 are closely interlinked, and both require training for athletics coaches to promote awareness of, and strategies to address, behavioral and mental health challenges for pupil athletes. This bill specifically requires initial trainings, and subsequent trainings every two years, for coaches of non-interscholastic athletic programs operated by LEAs and for coaches in interscholastic athletic programs at high schools that are CIF members. This bill requires the trainings specified in this legislation to cover training topics established by AB 1626.

This bill doesn't define athletic programs that aren't interscholastic programs. However, non-interscholastic athletic programs could include athletic programs operated by LEAs that are not CIF members, or athletic programs for K-8 pupils operated by LEAs. These may include intramural sports, such as soccer and flag football at the high school level and track and field and wrestling at the middle school level.

CIF. Founded in 1914, the CIF is a voluntary organization consisting of over 1,600 public, public charter, and private high schools and over 750,000 student-athletes, for the purpose of governing education-based athletics in grades nine through 12. Almost all public and private high schools in California are CIF members. The CIF is organized under the California Department of Education (CDE), and CDE has allowed the CIF to regulate interscholastic athletics and be the rulemaking body for these programs.

The CIF consists of ten regional sections, each of which is divided into several local leagues, for purposes of developing sports, scheduling athletic contests, and assigning referees. Each league elects a representative to their respective CIF section's governing body, which is called a Board of Managers or Council. Each CIF section's governing body elects officers, establishes section policies, develops section playoff sports and schedules, and CIF members adhere to these rules and regulations adopted by their section.

Currently, CIF offers training programs to high school coaches who earn a certificate upon course completion that is transferable between school districts. These training programs are part of the California High School Coaching Education and Training Program and currently include instruction on CPR and first aid, concussions, sudden cardiac arrest, and heat illness. According to CIF's website, coaches who are part of CIF member schools must complete these training courses every two years.

According to the Author

"Research indicates that more than 20% of children confront mental health issues and that three out of every 10 teenagers face "serious psychological distress" – a figure that has increased in recent decades. About half of all serious mental health disorders develop during teenage years. During childhood years, more than half of kids participate in sports programs intended to be a fun physical and mental outlet, but many young athletes face increased pressure to perform at high levels. With this intense stress during an already tumultuous time, student-athlete physical and mental health should be supported in the most holistic way possible.

"California has taken steps to address student mental health, including increasing student access to mental health services. However, even when resources are available, students are often most comfortable speaking with people they know. Coaches are often the first to hear about student-athlete mental health challenges. As trusted individuals in students' lives, coaches have the unique opportunity to spot mental health crises and provide support to struggling student athletes."

Arguments in Support

The California Hospital Association states, "Every day, California hospitals see firsthand the growing number of young people in mental health crisis. Since adolescents spend much of their time with peers at school and in extracurricular activities such as sports, it is critical that adults in those environments be prepared to support young people who are struggling. That's why the California Hospital Association (CHA), on behalf of nearly 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1665, which would ensure high school coaches have appropriate training to provide informed mental health support to student-athletes. Today, three in 10 teenagers are facing "serious psychological distress," and a growing number of adolescents are being seen in hospital emergency departments due to suspected suicide attempts. And while sports provide an important and effective physical outlet for the more than half of adolescents who participate, many teens face pressure to perform at increasingly higher levels. Although high school coaches are required to complete training on concussions, cardiac arrest, and heat acclimatization, they are not currently required to receive training on students' mental health."

Arguments in Opposition

The California Family Council states, "Our concern with this bill is not its stated goal of supporting student mental health. The well-being of young people, including student-athletes, is vitally important, and coaches can play a meaningful role in recognizing when students may

need support. However, AB 1665 creates a mandatory training requirement for high school coaches without providing clarity about what that training will include. These concerns are heightened given the direction of recent policies from both the Legislature and CIF. In recent years, CIF has adopted policies allowing male athletes who identify as female to compete in girls' sports and access girls' locker rooms and restrooms. Many Californians are concerned that vague mandates such as those in AB 1665 could be used to advance ideological training requirements that demand automatic affirmation of a student's gender identity without regard to a coach's religious beliefs or the beliefs or wishes of the student's parents."

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill was keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel

VOTES:

ASM ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM: 9-0-0

YES: Ward, Lackey, Elhawary, Jeff Gonzalez, McKinnor, Ortega, Quirk-Silva, Valencia, Zbur

ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0

YES: Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Alanis, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0-10

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Castillo, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNERney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

CONSULTANT: Brian V. Anderson, Jr. / A.,E.,S., & T. / (916) 319-3450

FN: 0004212