
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 749 (McKinnor) - Youth Sports for All Act

Version: May 23, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 2

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 749 would require the Secretary of California Health and Human Services to establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Development of a California Department of Youth Sports.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown one-time General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands to low millions, for the California Health and Human Services Agency to convene the commission and conduct the study.

Background: Current law defines “youth sports organization” to mean “an organization, business, nonprofit entity, or a local governmental agency that sponsors or conducts amateur sports competitions, training, camps, or clubs in which persons 17 years of age or younger participate.” A youth sports organization that elects to offer an athletic program must comply with all of the following:

- An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury, or who has passed out or fainted, in an athletic activity must be immediately removed from the athletic activity for the remainder of the day, and cannot be permitted to return to any athletic activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider; the athlete cannot be permitted to return to athletic activity until the athlete receives written clearance to return to athletic activity from a licensed healthcare provider; if the licensed healthcare provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or other head injury, the athlete must also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider; and if the licensed healthcare provider suspects that the athlete has a cardiac condition that puts the athlete at risk for sudden cardiac arrest or other heart-related issues, the athlete must remain under the care of the licensed healthcare provider to pursue followup testing until the athlete is cleared to play.
- If an athlete who is 17 years of age or younger has been removed from athletic activity due to a suspected concussion or due to fainting or another suspected cardiac condition, the youth sports organization must notify a parent or guardian of that athlete of the time and date of the injury, the symptoms observed, and any treatment provided to that athlete for the injury.
- On a yearly basis, the youth sports organization must give both a concussion and head injury and a sudden cardiac arrest information sheet to each athlete. The information sheet must be signed by the athlete and/or parent or guardian, as specified.

- On a yearly basis, the youth sports organization must offer concussion and head injury and sudden cardiac arrest prevention education, or related educational materials, or both, to each coach, administrator, and referee, umpire, or other game official of the youth sports organization.
- The youth sports organization must require both of the following:
 - Each coach, administrator, and referee, umpire, or other game official of the youth sports organization must be required to successfully complete the concussion and head injury and sudden cardiac arrest prevention education offered at least once, either online or in person, before supervising an athlete in an activity of the youth sports organization.
 - The youth sports organization must post related information, as specified, online, or provide educational materials to athletes and parents, or both.
- The youth sports organization must identify both of the following:
 - Procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements for providing concussion and head injury and sudden cardiac arrest prevention education and a concussion and head injury and sudden cardiac arrest prevention information sheet.
 - Procedures to ensure compliance with the athlete removal provisions and the return-to-play protocol.
- Annually give the Opioid Factsheet for Patients published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to each athlete. The athlete and, if the athlete is 17 years of age or younger, the athlete's parent or guardian must sign a document acknowledging receipt of the Opioid Factsheet for Patients and return that document to the youth sports organization before the athlete initiates practice or competition.
- Commencing January 1, 2027, ensure that its athletes have access to an automated external defibrillator (AED) during any official practice or match. If an AED is administered during an applicable medical circumstance, the AED must be administered by a medical professional, coach, or other person designated by the youth sports organization, who holds AED certification and who complies with any other qualifications required pursuant to federal and state law applicable to the use of an AED.

Current law also imposes requirements on a youth sports organization that conducts a tackle football program. For purposes of youth tackle football programs, a "youth sports organization" is defined as "an organization, business, or nonprofit entity that sponsors or conducts amateur sports competition, training, camps, clinics, practices, or clubs."

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require the Secretary of California Health and Human Services and other relevant agencies or departments as determined by the secretary, to, on or before March 1,

2026, establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Development of a California Department of Youth Sports or an Equivalent Centralized Entity to conduct a comprehensive study to review the need for and feasibility of creating a centralized entity charged with supporting and regulating youth sports.

- Specify the membership of the commission.
- Specify components of the study.
- Authorize the California Health and Human Services Agency to enter into a contract with an external entity, including an institution of higher education or a nonprofit organization with relevant expertise, to conduct the study.
- Require the commission to submit the study to the Legislature and the Governor; and require the commission, before finalizing the study and before submission to the Legislature and the Governor, to publically present the study and provide an opportunity for public feedback.
- Require that implementation is contingent upon either of the following:
 - An appropriation for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute.
 - Sufficient funds being obtained by the California Health and Human Services Agency from federal, nonprofit, or private sources for the purposes of implementation.
- Authorize the California Health and Human Services Agency to use funds from federal, nonprofit, or private sources to augment an appropriation made to implement the bill's provisions.
- Create the Youth Sports Blue Ribbon Commission Fund and provide that moneys in the fund may be expended by the California Health and Human Services Agency, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of implementing the bill's provisions.
- Create the Youth Sports Blue Ribbon Commission Special Fund Subaccount in the Youth Sports Blue Ribbon Commission Fund, for the receipt and deposit of only federal, nonprofit, or private moneys; and provide that moneys in the subaccount are continuously appropriated without regard to fiscal years to, and may be expended by, the California Health and Human Services Agency for the purposes of implementing the bill's provisions.
- Repeal the bill's provisions on January 1, 2030.