



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

Bill 496

**An Act to prevent and reduce the
consequences of head injuries and
concussions in students participating in
school sports activities**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Kathleen Weil
Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The object of this bill is to prevent and reduce the consequences of head injuries and concussions in students participating in school sports activities.

The Minister must propose a policy to the Government for the prevention and reduction of the consequences of head injuries and concussions in students. The policy may also establish a short-, medium- and long-term student support protocol as well as strategies and measures to facilitate the attainment of that object within the specified time.

Persons interested in voicing their point of view on the policy will be invited to do so before it is established in a regulation made by the Government.

The policy established by regulation must cover such aspects as the distribution of information on how to prevent and reduce the consequences of head injuries or concussions and how to recognize the symptoms of head injuries and concussions.

The policy must also provide for the immediate removal of a student who has or may have sustained a head injury or concussion and the student's return to a sports activity.

A student support protocol must be established and the responsibilities of the persons involved in school sports activities must be defined.

Lastly, an advisory panel on the prevention and reduction of the consequences of head injuries and concussions is established to foster a concerted approach and coherence of action between the main stakeholders in the sports and education sectors.

The role of the advisory panel is to advise the Minister on measures aimed at preventing and reducing the consequences of head injuries or concussions, including by making consensus-based recommendations to the Minister and advising the Minister on the expediency of extending the application of the policy to other sports bodies or learning institutions.

Bill 496

AN ACT TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HEAD INJURIES AND CONCUSSIONS IN STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL SPORTS ACTIVITIES

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

OBJECT

- 1.** The object of this Act is to prevent and reduce the consequences of head injuries and concussions in students participating in school sports activities.
- 2.** In this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise, “school sports activity” means any sports activity carried out under basic school regulations or as part of educational services or extracurricular services.

CHAPTER II

POLICY

- 3.** To further the object set out in section 1, the Minister must propose a policy to the Government for the prevention and reduction of the consequences of head injuries and concussions in students. In addition to stating the principles on which it is based, the policy may establish a short-, medium- and long-term student support protocol as well as strategies and measures to facilitate the attainment of that object within the specified time.

Not later than 1 April 2014, the Minister must publish in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* the policy to be proposed to the Government under this section, together with a notice inviting all interested persons to make their point of view known within the specified time.

CHAPTER III

REGULATIONS

- 4.** Not later than 1 April 2015, the Government must, by regulation, establish a policy for the prevention and reduction of the consequences of head injuries and concussions in students.

The policy must cover such aspects as

(1) the distribution of information to students, parents, school administrators, teachers and other school or private educational institution staff, governing boards, school boards, private educational institutions, and volunteers on

(a) how to prevent and reduce the consequences of head injuries and concussions;

(b) how to recognize and manage the symptoms of head injuries and concussions;

(2) the immediate removal of a student who has or may have sustained a head injury or concussion from the school sports activity or the barring of a student from further participating in such an activity;

(3) the return of a student who has or may have sustained a head injury or concussion during a school sports activity to a sports activity or to learning once it has been authorized by a qualified health professional trained in the evaluation and treatment of head injuries and concussions;

(4) the support protocol for students who have or may have sustained a head injury or concussion during a school sports activity;

(5) the responsibilities of persons involved in school sports activities as well as their role in the support protocol referred to in subparagraph 4, whether they are students, parents, school administrators, teachers or other school or private educational institution staff, governing boards, school boards, private educational institutions or volunteers; and

(6) the medical requirements to be complied with in the follow-up of a student who has or may have sustained a head injury or concussion, including the supervision required to detect any secondary complications.

The policy applies to all schools governed by the Education Act (chapter I-13.3) or the Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons (chapter I-14) and to all private educational institutions governed by the Act respecting private education (chapter E-9.1), except institutions that provide educational services at the college level.

CHAPTER IV

ADVISORY PANEL

5. An advisory panel on the prevention and reduction of the consequences of head injuries and concussions in sports activities is hereby established.

The role of the advisory panel is

(1) to foster a concerted approach and coherence of action between the main stakeholders in the sports and education sectors;

(2) to advise the Minister on measures aimed at preventing and reducing the consequences of head injuries or concussions in sports activities, including by making consensus-based recommendations to the Minister; and

(3) to advise the Minister on the expediency of extending the application of the policy referred to in section 3 to sports federations and sports bodies referred to in the Act respecting safety in sports (chapter S-3.1) and to higher learning institutions.

6. The panel is to be composed of a chair and not more than 11 members to be appointed by the Minister to represent the sports federations, sports bodies, school boards, private educational institutions and higher learning institutions.

CHAPTER V

FINAL PROVISIONS

7. The Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports is responsible for the administration of this Act.

8. This Act comes into force on (*insert the date of assent to this Act*).

