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City of Chicago

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	11/10/2010
Status:	Introduced
Sponsor(s):	Burke, Edward Thomas, Latasha
Type:	Ordinance
Title:	Amend Title 7 of the Municipal Code by addition of new Chapter 7-22 concerning healthcare of student athletes.
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Education And Child Development Committee on Finance Joint Committee

Jt. Finance and Education

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents participating in sports and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as three million nine hundred thousand sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the risk of catastrophic injuries or death are significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed; and

WHEREAS, continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that young, developing brains take longer to heal, requiring that treatment must be tailored to specific ages; and

WHEREAS, cognitive exertion, such as going to school, can delay recovery just as physical exertion can; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Title 7 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter 7-22, as follows:

7-22-010. The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable to any elementary, middle, or secondary school in the City of Chicago, public or private, which sponsors athletic activities for its students, and, by order of the City Council, is exempt from City water or sewer charges.

7-22-020 A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, including loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, problems with immediate recall, disorientation as to time place or person, fatigue, blurred vision, or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest. If no medical personnel are immediately available and an injured student athlete has any of the described

signs, symptoms, or behaviors, he or she shall be promptly taken to a facility for appropriate medical care.

7-22-030. A student athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written medical authorization to return to play from that health care provider.

7-22-040. Upon proof of a violation of Section 7-22-020 or 7-22-030 by any school exempted from City water or sewer charges, through its responsible agents, including coaches, athletic directors, or any other similar personnel, such exemption shall be revoked, and such school shall become liable for all such charges from and after the date of injury, or the return of the student to play without written authorization by a licensed health care provider.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and due publication.

Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward

Latasha R. Thomas
Alderman, 17th Ward