

HOUSE No. 2017

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the creation of a sports injury commission..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the
2 contrary, there is hereby established a Sports Injury Commission to investigate and report on the
3 incidence of sports injuries in elementary, middle and high school children. Said commission
4 shall collect data of the types of sports injuries, frequency, severity, identify high-risk sports, and
5 long term impact of sports injuries on young athletes, including but not limited to the rate and
6 type of eye, facial and head injuries incurred and the types of sports most frequently associated
7 with such injuries. The commission shall develop strategic and legislative recommendations to
8 reduce the incidence sports injuries including the mandatory use of protective eyewear and/or
9 headgear in all high-risk sports.

10 The commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate Chairs or the Joint
11 Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; the House and
12 Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee of Education; the Commissioner of the Department of
13 Public Health or his designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Education; and one
14 representative from each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Society of Eye

15 Physicians and Surgeons; the Massachusetts Medical Society; the Massachusetts College of
16 Emergency Room Physicians; the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of
17 Pediatrics; the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians; the Massachusetts Interscholastic
18 Athletic Association; the Massachusetts School Nurses Association; the Massachusetts Dental
19 Society, the Massachusetts Coaches Association and two high school students.

20 Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts
21 of legislation with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives on or before December
22 31, 2010.