HOUSE . . . . No. 3478

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Nine

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An Act establishing a student athlete 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 of sports injuries including the mandatory use of protective eye wear and/or

9   headgear in all high-risk sports.

10   The commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate Chairs of 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 on 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, the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts

20   and two high school students.