

SENATE No. 806

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, head injuries, heart injuries and heart failure incurred and the types of sports
7 most frequently associated with such injuries. The commission shall develop strategic and
8 legislative recommendations to reduce the incidence of sports injuries, including the mandatory
9 use of protective eye wear and/or headgear in all high-risk sports and consideration of mandatory
10 heart testing.

11 The commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint
12 Committee on Public Health, who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; the House and
13 Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Education; the Commissioner of the Department of
14 Public Health or his designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Education; and one

15 representative from each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Society of Eye
16 Physicians and Surgeons; the Massachusetts Medical Society; the Massachusetts College of
17 Emergency Room Physicians; the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of
18 Pediatrics; the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians; the Massachusetts Chapter
19 American College of Cardiology; the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association; the
20 Massachusetts Head Injury Association; the Massachusetts School Nurses Association; the
21 American Heart Association; the Massachusetts Dental Society, the Massachusetts Coaches
22 Association and two high school students.

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