

SENATE No. 1129

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia S. Creem

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia S. Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1129

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1129) of Cynthia S. Creem for legislation to create a sports injury commission. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1002 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

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 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there is
2 hereby established a Sports Injury Commission to investigate and report on the incidence of
3 sports injuries in elementary, middle and high school children. Said commission shall collect
4 data of the types of sports injuries, frequency, severity, identify high-risk sports, and long term
5 impact of sports injuries on young athletes, including but not limited to the rate and type of eye,
6 facial, head injuries, heart injuries and heart failure incurred and the types of sports most
7 frequently associated with such injuries. The commission shall develop strategic and legislative
8 recommendations to reduce the incidence of sports injuries, including the mandatory use of
9 protective eye wear and/or headgear in all high-risk sports and consideration of mandatory heart
10 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 Boston University Center for Study of Traumatic
21 Encephalopathy; the Massachusetts School Nurses Association; the American Heart Association;
22 the Massachusetts Dental Society, the Massachusetts Coaches Association and two high school
23 students.

24 Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts
25 of legislation with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives on or before December
26 31, 2015.