



HOUSE BILL 602: Coach Safely Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Reeder, Willis	Prepared by:	Stewart Sturkie
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 602 would require annual completion of youth sports injury education by coaches and athletics personnel who serve an association that conducts youth athletic activities on State property or property of the State's political subdivisions. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DHHS) would be required to approve courses that meet the annual training requirement.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would enact an Article, entitled "The Coach Safely Act for Protection of Youth Athletes." The Article would include:

Definitions for "Association", "Athletics personnel", "Coach or coaching staff", "Department", and "Youth athlete".

Annual training requirement for athletics personnel and coaches:

- Every association would be required to have its coaches and athletics personnel complete a youth sports injury education course that has been approved by DHHS. The association would be required to provide this training free of charge.
- Coaches and athletics personnel of an association would be required to complete the training within 30 days of becoming actively engaged in or serving the association as coaching staff or athletics personnel. Coaches and athletics personnel would be required to complete the training each year by the anniversary date on which they first started working with the association.
- Associations would be required to maintain individual records for athletics personnel and coaches who complete the education and retain those records for the duration of their service to the association.
- The following persons would not be subject to the education requirement if they have completed advanced trauma life support training:
 - Licensed athletic trainers.
 - Licensed physicians.
 - Licensed nurses.
 - Advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, and emergency medical services-nurse practitioners.
 - Other healthcare practitioners.

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DHHS approval of youth sports injury education courses; limitation:

- DHHS would be required to approve at least one course that meets the evidence-based, best practice standards of the National Athletic Training Association, National Council of Youth Sports, or other nationally recognized organization for youth sports injury education.
- Youth sports injury education courses would be required to address the following topics:
 - Safety techniques and methods that coaches can use to lower the chance that a youth athlete will be seriously injured while participating in youth athletics.
 - Emergency preparedness and planning, and rehearsals for responding to traumatic injuries that occur during youth athletics.
 - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and general first aid techniques.
 - Concussions and head trauma.
 - Injuries caused by heat or extreme weather.
 - Physical conditioning and the use of training equipment.
 - Heart defects and abnormalities that lead to sudden cardiac death.

Defense to claims of liability against athletics personnel and coaches:

- Coaches and athletics personnel would be immune from liability for an injury to a youth athlete participating in athletic activities if the coach or athletics personnel:
 - Completed the youth sports injury education.
 - Reasonably conformed their conduct to the safety methods and techniques in the education course.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2025.