

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 958

By: Senators Files, D. Sanders, Bledsoe, J. Hendren

By: Representatives Davis, Neal, Sorvillo

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ADOPT THE MANPOWER SPORTS STUDENT PROTECTION ACT; TO PROHIBIT A SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM PARTICIPATING IN AN ORGANIZATION THAT DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COUNTING STUDENTS OR CLASSIFYING SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO ADOPT THE MANPOWER SPORTS STUDENT PROTECTION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Concussion is one (1) of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities;

(2) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as three million nine hundred thousand (3,900,000) sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year;

(3) A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull;

(4) Concussion is a type of brain injury that can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works;



(5) Numerous lawsuits have been filed concerning concussions sustained by student athletes during participation in school-sponsored athletic programs; and

(6) Some athletes are more exposed to the risk of concussion by the type of athletic activity in which they participate.

(b) The intent of this act is to promote student athlete safety by ensuring that athletic competitions in manpower sports are organized fairly by size, regardless of type of school.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-13-113. Participation in certain organizations.

(a) As used in this section "manpower sports" means a sport with significant person-to-person contact that may increase an athlete's exposure to head injury, including without limitation football.

(b) Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, a school district shall not participate in an organization that governs extra-curricular activities, including athletics, if the organization distinguishes between public schools and private schools for the purpose of counting students or classifying schools for athletic conference play in manpower sports.

(c) A public school or private school that voluntarily chooses move up a classification level does not violate this section