

HB369 Section Summary

Section 1 – Addresses a problem in the language of the statutes dealing with student athlete participation in sports programs when there is a suspicion they have suffered a concussion or brain trauma.

- The legislature passed house Bill 15, sponsored by Rep. Mike Doogan, last year requiring student-athletes to be evaluated by a qualified individual (licensed doctor or a person working under the supervision of a doctor) for symptoms of a concussion or brain trauma before they could return to game play.
- House Bill 15 also required the person evaluating the student to be certified to perform such an evaluation.
 - Changes include the restriction prohibiting student-athletes from returning to practice as well as game play before they are cleared by a qualified person.
 - The requirement for certification to perform evaluation for concussion or brain trauma is also removed because there is no organization in Alaska that offers such certification.

Section 2 – Establishes in statute rules allowing students of alternative education programs the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports programs offered at the high school level in public schools.

- Allows student-athletes to declare a public school as their school of eligibility for the purpose of participation in interscholastic school sports.
- Alternative education programs
 - Alaska Military Youth Academy, public vocational programs, remedial schools, a home school, charter schools and statewide correspondence schools.
- Student must meet all eligibility requirements established by the school, school district and corresponding sport's governing body (in Alaska this would be ASAA – the Alaska Scholastic Activities Association).
- Students must be on track for graduation in not more than four years of attendance in order to participate in sports.
- Establishes a definition for a full-time student for the purpose of participation in this eligibility.
 - Student-athletes in grade 9-11 must be enrolled in not less than five credit hours each semester in 12th grade must be registered in not less than 4 credit hours.

- It is the responsibility of the student-athlete participating in the program to provide all documentation required to be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports.
 - Academic records, medical clearance, and disciplinary records.
 - This includes transcripts verifying the student's grade point average, physical examination and any disciplinary records from schools.
 - The discipline records will prevent students who have been suspended or expelled from a public school from participating as a student from an alternative education program.
 - Student-athletes declaring a school of eligibility cannot change their school of eligibility during the same school calendar year.
- Student-athletes can only select a high school that is within the boundary area in which they reside as their school of eligibility.