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Technology, and Innovations

SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Senate Bill No. 22 (27-LS0250\A)

Section 1. Adds a new section to the uncodified law of the State of Alaska that lists findings related to Traumatic Brain Injury, especially with respect to children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. The section also defines what constitutes a concussion and points out that despite national guidelines recommending individual assessment and gradual return to play following concussions, student athletes are often returned to play prematurely resulting in risks of greater injury.

Section 2. Amends AS 14.30 by adding new sections to article 3 that would establish requirements for the governing body of a school district relating to consult with the Alaska School Activities Association relating to prevention and reporting of concussions.

Section 14.30.142 is a new section that includes provisions regarding prevention of concussions and reporting. It states that students will be immediately removed from practice or a game if suspected of having a concussion or traumatic brain injury and that before returning to play or practice, the student must be cleared by a licensed health care provider who has received training in evaluating and managing traumatic brain injuries. This Section also explains that an evaluator may not be held liable for civil damages unless he/she acted recklessly, with intentional misconduct, or gross negligence.

Section AS 14.30.143 additionally states that a school district may not be held liable for injury or death resulting from the action or inaction of an employee or contractor with a non-profit youth organization under certain circumstances.