

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 3047**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty**

February 16, 2024

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~~An act to amend Section 35000 of the Education Code, relating to school administration.~~ *An act to add and repeal Section 124244 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to youth athletics.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3047, as amended, McCarty. ~~School administration: school districts.~~ *Youth athletics: chronic traumatic encephalopathy.*

*Under the California Youth Football Act, a youth sports organization, as defined, that conducts a tackle football program must comply with certain requirements, including, among other things, having a licensed medical professional, which may include a state-licensed emergency medical technician, paramedic, or higher-level licensed medical professional, present during games.*

*Until July 1, 2027, this bill would require the Surgeon General to convene a Commission on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and Youth Tackle Football to investigate issues related to the risks of brain injury associated with participation in youth tackle football, and to provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on strategies to reduce those health risks, including the minimum appropriate age for participation in youth tackle football. The bill would require the Surgeon General to publish a report on their internet website on or before January 1, 2027, with the findings of the commission.*

Existing law requires the first governing board of a new school district to name the district at the first meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter, as specified.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) a degenerative  
4 brain disease that can be definitively diagnosed only after death.

5 (b) According to the National Institutes of Health, CTE is caused  
6 in part by repeated traumatic brain injuries like those suffered in  
7 contact sports and military service.

8 (c) More American football players have been diagnosed with  
9 CTE than athletes in all other sports combined, worldwide.

10 (d) According to Boston University, the odds of developing CTE  
11 are correlated with the number and strength of repeated head  
12 impacts, which in turn is correlated with the number of years an  
13 athlete participates in a sport.

14 (e) Helmet sensor studies that measure linear head acceleration  
15 show the average head impact to a youth tackle football player is  
16 the same as the average head impact to a college football player.

17 (f) A study by the federal Centers for Disease Control reported  
18 that youth tackle football athletes, 6 to 14 years of age, sustained  
19 15 times more head impacts and 23 times more high-magnitude  
20 head impacts (hard head impacts) than flag football athletes during  
21 practices and games.

22 (g) CTE can cause mood and behavioral symptoms, including  
23 impulse control problems, aggression, depression, and paranoia.

24 (h) CTE pathology is correlated with problems with memory  
25 and cognition, including dementia, and may contribute to  
26 neurobehavioral symptoms.

27 SEC. 2. Section 124244 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
28 to read:

29 124244. (a) As used in this section, “commission” means the  
30 Commission on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and Youth  
31 Tackle Football established pursuant to this section.

1 (b) *The Surgeon General shall convene a Commission on*  
2 *Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and Youth Tackle Football*  
3 *to investigate issues related to the risks of brain injury associated*  
4 *with participation in youth tackle football, and to provide*  
5 *recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on strategies*  
6 *to reduce those health risks, including the minimum appropriate*  
7 *age for participation in youth tackle football.*

8 (c) *The commission shall be led by the Surgeon General and*  
9 *shall consist of members selected by the Surgeon General, and*  
10 *shall include, but not be limited to, members with expertise in*  
11 *public health, neuroscience, neurology, or other relevant fields.*

12 (d) *The commission shall review, investigate, and analyze issues*  
13 *relating to the risk of brain injury associated with participation*  
14 *in youth football, including all of the following:*

15 (1) *The risk of concussion, chronic traumatic encephalopathy*  
16 *(CTE), or other brain injury from participation in youth tackle*  
17 *football, including subconcussive head trauma and repetitive head*  
18 *impacts.*

19 (2) *The short- and long-term health consequences of concussion,*  
20 *CTE, or other brain injury in youth.*

21 (3) *How the risks and health consequences described in*  
22 *paragraphs (1) and (2) vary with the age of, and the duration of*  
23 *participation by, the youth tackle football participant.*

24 (e) *The commission may request youth sports injury information*  
25 *described in Section 124242 from youth tackle football leagues,*  
26 *which shall be shared on a voluntary basis.*

27 (f) *On or before January 1, 2027, the Surgeon General shall*  
28 *publish a report on their internet website on the findings of the*  
29 *commission, including recommendations on both of the following*  
30 *issues:*

31 (1) *The appropriate minimum age for participation in youth*  
32 *tackle football.*

33 (2) *Best practices for minimizing the risk of concussion, CTE,*  
34 *subconcussive trauma, repetitive head impacts, or other brain*  
35 *injury in youth tackle football.*

36 (g) *This section shall remain in effect only until July 1, 2027,*  
37 *and as of that date is repealed.*

38 **SECTION 1.** ~~Section 35000 of the Education Code is amended~~  
39 ~~to read:~~

- 1 35000. ~~(a) The first governing board of a new school district~~
- 2 ~~shall, at the first meeting of the governing board or as soon as~~
- 3 ~~practicable thereafter, name the school district.~~
- 4 ~~(b) The name of an elementary school district shall be in the~~
- 5 ~~form of “\_\_\_\_\_ District” (using the name of the district). The name~~
- 6 ~~of an elementary school district shall not include a number.~~
- 7 ~~(c) The name of a unified school district shall be in the form of~~
- 8 ~~“\_\_\_\_\_ Unified School District” (using the name of the district). A~~
- 9 ~~number shall not be used as a part of the designation of a unified~~
- 10 ~~school district.~~