

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: SB 238

INTRODUCER: Senator Ring

SUBJECT: Athletic Coaches

DATE: March 5, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Preston	Hendon	CF	Favorable
2.			CA	
3.			JU	
4.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 238 requires an independent sanctioning authority to dismiss an athletic coach who is ejected from a game in a league of children who are 12 years of age or younger. The dismissal is in effect at least until the following sport season.

The bill also requires a process for coaches to appeal an ejection to the sanctioning authority.

The bill is anticipated to have no fiscal impact on state government.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2015.

II. Present Situation:

Current law defines the term “athletic coach” as a person who is authorized by an independent sanctioning authority to work as a coach, assistant coach, or referee for 20 or more hours within a calendar year, whether for compensation or as a volunteer, for a youth athletic team based in this state and who has direct contact with one or more minors on the youth athletic team.¹

The term “independent sanctioning authority” is defined as a private, nongovernmental entity that organizes, operates, or coordinates a youth athletic team in this state if the team includes one or more minors and is not affiliated with a private school as defined in s. 1002.01.² An independent sanctioning authority is required to do the following:

- Conduct a level 1 background screening pursuant to s. 435.03, F.S., of each current and prospective athletic coach and maintain certain documentation of those screenings for at least 5 years.

¹ Section 943.0438, F.S.

² *Id.*

- Adopt policies related to requirements for parents or guardians of a young athlete to annually sign and return an informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after concussion or head injury.
- Adopt policies related to continued participation and return to participation by a young athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury.³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes

Section 1 amends s. 943.0438, F.S., to require an independent sanctioning authority to immediately dismiss an athletic coach who has been ejected from a game in a league in which the children are 12 years of age or younger. The dismissed coach may resume work as a coach the following sport season or any time after that if the authority determines the coach is still qualified. A procedure for a coach to appeal an ejection is also required to be established by a sanctioning authority.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

³ *Id.*

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 943.0438.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.