

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to repetitive head impact prevention;
3 providing a short title; creating s. 381.996, F.S.;
4 providing legislative findings; providing definitions;
5 requiring parents and legal guardians registering
6 children in high-risk sports to receive specified
7 educational materials; providing requirements for such
8 materials; requiring certain athletic directors,
9 coaches, referees, and trainers to complete specified
10 training; requiring the State Surgeon General, in
11 collaboration with certain persons and entities, to
12 develop specified continuing education courses for
13 certain persons; establishing the Florida Brain Health
14 in Sports Panel within the Department of Health;
15 providing requirements for the panel; authorizing the
16 department to use certain funds for certain purposes;
17 providing rulemaking authority to the department;
18 creating s. 683.339, F.S.; designating September 24 of
19 each year as "Parkman-Lewis Day"; providing an
20 effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24 **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Mac Parkman and
25 Ray Lewis III Act."

26 **Section 2. Section 381.996, Florida Statutes, is created**
27 **to read:**

28 381.996 Repetitive head impact prevention.—

29 (1) The Legislature finds that:

30 (a) Repetitive head impacts are inherent in high-risk
31 sports and are the root cause of chronic traumatic
32 encephalopathy.

33 (b) Youth under 18 years of age are especially vulnerable
34 due to ongoing brain development.

35 (c) Families, coaches, and even medical professionals
36 often lack information and training on repetitive head impacts
37 and chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

38 (d) Education, awareness, and informed consent are
39 necessary to protect children, reduce health and social costs,
40 and honor the memories of Mac Parkman and Ray Lewis III.

41 (2) As used in this section, the term:

42 (a) "Brain-safe sports" means sports that minimize the
43 risk of head injuries, including, but not limited to,
44 concussions and long-term brain damage such as chronic traumatic
45 encephalopathy. The term includes basketball, baseball,
46 volleyball, track, swimming, and tennis.

47 (b) "Department" means the Department of Health.

48 (c) "High-risk sports" means a sport in which a player is
49 routinely subject to repetitive head impacts and includes
50 football, soccer, hockey, boxing, lacrosse, wrestling, rugby,

51 cheerleading.

52 (d) "Repetitive head impacts" means subconcussive or
53 concussive impacts to the brain that accumulate over time
54 regardless of immediate symptoms.

55 (3) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, a parent or
56 legal guardian registering a child in a high-risk sport shall
57 receive standardized educational materials on repetitive head
58 impacts and chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

59 (a) The parent or legal guardian must sign and return an
60 acknowledgment form before the child participates in a high-risk
61 sport.

62 (b) The department, in consultation with the Department of
63 Education and the Florida High School Athletic Association,
64 shall develop and annually update the materials.

65 (c) The materials must explain the science of repetitive
66 head impacts and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, risks
67 associated with early participation, signs and symptoms of brain
68 injury and related mental illness, and safer alternatives of
69 brain-safe sports.

70 (4) (a) Athletic directors, coaches, referees, and trainers
71 of high-risk sports at the youth and high school levels must
72 annually complete mandatory repetitive head impacts and chronic
73 traumatic encephalopathy awareness training approved by the
74 department.

75 (b) The State Surgeon General shall collaborate with

76 nonprofit organizations, state universities, and medical experts
77 to develop continuing education courses for physicians, nurses,
78 physician assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, coroners,
79 suicide-prevention specialists, athletic trainers, coaches, and
80 youth sports officials.

81 (5)(a) There is established within the department the
82 Florida Brain Health in Sports Panel, an advisory council as
83 defined in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of
84 Health. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the panel
85 shall comply with the requirements of s. 20.052. The department,
86 in consultation with the Department of Education and the Florida
87 High School Athletic Association, shall appoint members of the
88 panel, which shall be composed of scientists, medical
89 professionals, educators, researchers, nonprofit leaders, and
90 stakeholders.

91 (b) By January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the panel
92 shall provide a report to the Legislature on panel progress,
93 findings, and policy recommendations. The report shall include
94 recommendations on parental education content and training
95 requirements and strategies to reduce repetitive head impact
96 exposure.

97 (6) The department may:

98 (a) Use funds appropriated for the development and
99 distribution of informed consent materials, the administration
100 of training and awareness programs, and to support the panel.

101 (b) Enter into public-private partnerships with
102 nonprofits, foundations, and universities to reduce departmental
103 costs and expand awareness.

104 (7) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement
105 this section.

106 **Section 3. Section 683.339, Florida Statutes, is created**
107 **to read:**

108 683.339 Repeated Head Injury Awareness Day.—September 24
109 of each year, during National Concussion Awareness Month, is
110 designated as "Parkman-Lewis Day."

111 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.