

HOUSE No. 2005

By Ms. Atkins of Concord, petition of Cory Atkins and Jennifer M. Callahan for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of sports injuries to school children. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF A SPORTS INJURY COMMISSION.

1 *Resolved*, Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or
2 special law to the contrary, there is hereby established a Sports
3 Injury Commission to investigate and report on the incidence of
4 sports injuries in elementary, middle and high school children.
5 Said commission shall collect data of they types of sports injuries,
6 frequency, severity, identify high-risk sports, and long term
7 impact of sports injuries on young athletes, including but not lim-
8 ited to the rate and type of eye, facial and head injuries incurred
9 and the types of sports most frequently associated with such
10 injuries. The commission shall develop strategic and legislative
11 recommendations to reduce the incidence sports injuries including
12 the mandatory use of protective eyewear and/or headgear in all
13 high-risk sports.

14 The commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate
15 Chairs or the Joint Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as
16 co-chairs of the commission; the House and Senate Chairs of the
17 Joint Committee of Education; the Commissioner of the Depart-
18 ment of Public Health or his designee; the Commissioner of the
19 Department of Education; and one representative from each of the
20 following organizations: the Massachusetts Society of Eye Physi-
21 cians and Surgeons; the Massachusetts Medical Society; the
22 Massachusetts College of Emergency Room Physicians; the
23 Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;
24 the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians; the Massachu-
25 setts Interscholastic Athletic Association; the Massachusetts

26 School Nurses Association; the Massachusetts Dental Society, the
27 Massachusetts Coaches Association and two high school students.
28 Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its
29 recommendations and drafts of legislation with the clerks of the
30 Senate and House of Representatives on or before December 31,
31 2008.