



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

**Raised Bill No. 5156**

LCO No. 1286



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF NECK GUARDS IN YOUTH HOCKEY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Youth ice hockey activity" means an organized ice hockey activity
- 3 involving participants of not less than three years of age and not more
- 4 than eighteen years of age, who (A) (i) engage in an organized ice
- 5 hockey game, competition or scrimmage against another team, club or
- 6 entity or in practice or preparation for an organized ice hockey game,
- 7 competition or scrimmage against another team, club or entity, or (ii)
- 8 attend an organized ice hockey program, camp or clinic the purpose of
- 9 which is to train, instruct or prepare such participants to engage in an
- 10 organized ice hockey game, competition or scrimmage, and (B) (i) pay a
- 11 fee to participate in such organized ice hockey game, competition or
- 12 scrimmage or attend such program, camp or clinic, or (ii) whose cost to
- 13 participate in such ice hockey game, competition or scrimmage or attend
- 14 such program, camp or clinic is sponsored by a municipality, business
- 15 or nonprofit organization. "Youth ice hockey activity" does not include

16 any college or university ice hockey activity, or an ice hockey activity  
17 that is incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson;

18 (2) "Intramural or interscholastic ice hockey event" means any youth  
19 ice hockey activity in which a local or regional board of education, or  
20 nonprofit organization sanctioned by local and regional boards of  
21 education, is an operator of such youth ice hockey activity;

22 (3) "Operator" means any municipality, business, nonprofit  
23 organization, or local or regional board of education that conducts,  
24 coordinates, organizes, sponsors or otherwise oversees any youth ice  
25 hockey activity, but shall not include any municipality, business or  
26 nonprofit organization solely providing access to, or use of, any rink,  
27 field, court or other recreational area, whether for compensation or not;  
28 and

29 (4) "Protective neck guard" means a piece of protective equipment  
30 worn around the neck area designed to prevent injury to a person's neck  
31 from pucks, hockey sticks and the blades of ice skates.

32 (b) On and after October 1, 2022, no operator of a youth ice hockey  
33 activity or an intramural or interscholastic ice hockey event shall permit  
34 a child to participate in such activity or event unless such child is  
35 wearing a protective neck guard.

36 (c) Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, each operator  
37 of a youth ice hockey activity or an intramural or interscholastic ice  
38 hockey event shall provide written or electronic notice to each parent or  
39 guardian of a child participating in any such activity or event that such  
40 child is required to wear a protective neck guard. Such written or  
41 electronic notice shall be provided upon the registration of such child  
42 for such activity or event and in accordance with the requirements of  
43 this section.

44 (d) No operator, or agent or designee of such operator, shall be  
45 subject to civil liability for failing to ensure that a child is wearing a  
46 protective neck guard while participating in a youth ice hockey activity

47 or an intramural or interscholastic ice hockey event.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require participants in youth ice hockey activities and interscholastic and intramural ice hockey events to wear protective neck guards while playing ice hockey.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*