STATE OF NEW YORK

5530

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 16, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. BENEDETTO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to prohibiting children twelve years old and younger from playing tackle football

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "John Mackey youth football protection act".

§ 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2596 to read as follows:

§ 2596. Prohibition of tackle football. 1. No child twelve years old or younger shall play, practice, or otherwise engage in organized tackle football; provided however, that nothing within this section shall prohibit children twelve years old and younger from playing, practicing, or otherwise participating in any form of football which does not involve tackling.

2. Any school, league or other entity whose purpose is to allow children to participate in football, who allows children twelve years old or younger to play, practice, or otherwise engage in tackle football shall be liable for a civil penalty under the provisions of title two of article one of this chapter.

3. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Organized tackle football" shall include any practice, game or other activity which involves engaging in tackle football and which is organized by a school, or public or private league or other entity whose purpose is to allow children to participate in contact football.

(b) "Tackle" shall mean to physically impede the forward movement of a player who is in possession of the ball to the extent that:

(i) the player's forward movement is stopped and the player is unable to resume such forward movement; or

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(ii) the player is forced to touch some part of his or her body to the ground other than the player's hands or feet.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.