

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-184

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
4 WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY THE SAFETY OF SOCCER GOALS USED IN
5 CHILDREN'S SPORTS, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY FROM EXPERTS AND
6 STAKEHOLDERS ON IMPROVING SOCCER GOAL SAFETY IN THE STATE.

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8 WHEREAS, since its first year of inception in 1974, youth soccer in the
9 United States has grown to be the largest youth sports organization in the
10 United States, counting more than three million two hundred thousand
11 (3,200,000) members whose ages range from five (5) to nineteen (19) years;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Soccer Association is the governing body
15 for youth soccer in Arkansas, and the association currently includes fifty-
16 eight (58) member associations with approximately twenty-six thousand
17 (26,000) members; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Soccer Association is one of the largest
20 youth sports organizations in Arkansas, and it has experienced a one hundred
21 thirty-five percent (135%) increase in its membership over the past ten (10)
22 years; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Soccer Association is dedicated to
25 providing affordable opportunities for everyone to play soccer in a
26 structured environment by designing and implementing programs that allow
27 players to reach their full potential consistent with their ability and
28 commitment, while emphasizing sportsmanship, teamwork, positive values,
29 personal growth, and self-esteem; and

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31 WHEREAS, approximately ninety (90) schools participated in the AAA High
32 School Soccer program in 2011; and

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34 WHEREAS, in addition to programs affiliated with the Arkansas State
35 Soccer Association and school soccer programs, there are at least thirty (30)

1 independent parks and recreation programs and at least sixty (60) other
2 independent programs; and

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4 WHEREAS, soccer reaches every corner of the state of Arkansas, both
5 rural and urban, and is a life-long sport that has immediate benefits on the
6 players' health and overall wellness, exercise habits, emotional well-being,
7 and educational outcomes; and

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9 WHEREAS, problems arise with instability of moveable soccer goals when
10 they are unanchored, not properly anchored, or not properly counterbalanced;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, unstable soccer goals pose an unnecessary risk of tipover to
14 children who climb on the goals or nets or hang from the crossbar and can
15 cause catastrophic injury to persons around the soccer goal; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the issue of soccer goal safety and the instability of
18 moveable soccer goals was recently addressed by the Arkansas General Assembly
19 in the 2011 Regular Session; and

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21 WHEREAS, Act 772 of 2011 was passed to address this issue by requiring
22 soccer goals in public recreation areas to be anchored according to the
23 Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety promulgated by the United States
24 Consumer Product Safety Commission or the guidelines adopted by the Arkansas
25 Department of Health,

26
27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND
29 LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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31 THAT the Interim Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor,
32 or a subcommittee of the committee, hear testimony, including expert
33 testimony, and study all available information on the safety of soccer goals
34 used in children's sports with the purpose of providing recommendations to
35 improve soccer goal safety in the State.

1 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the following stakeholders participate in
2 this study:

- 3 1. The Department of Health;
- 4 2. The Department of Education;
- 5 3. The Association of Arkansas Counties;
- 6 4. The Arkansas Municipal League;
- 7 5. The Arkansas State Soccer Association;
- 8 6. The Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association;
- 9 7. The Arkansas Activities Association;
- 10 8. Arkansas Children's Hospital; and
- 11 9. Any other organization or individual that has relevant
12 information for the committee to consider.

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14 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the Department of Health provide a status
15 report regarding the implementation of Act 772 of 2011 in writing within
16 thirty (30) days of adoption of this proposal and be available for testimony
17 to explain the written submission at later committee meetings.

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19 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the committee seek expert testimony on the
20 safety of soccer goals used in children's sports and on what other states are
21 doing to improve soccer goal safety.

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23 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that at the conclusion of the study the
24 committee make recommendations for improving soccer goal safety.

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26 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that this study be completed by January 15,
27 2012.

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29
30 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Senator Cecile Bledsoe
35 District 8

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3 By: JSE/CEH
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