



*Phil Mullin*

## ***Bill Analysis***

*Legislative Service Commission*

### **S.B. 46**

127th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the Senate)

**Sens. Mumper, Stivers, Cates, Niehaus, Fedor, Kearney, Morano, Roberts, Sawyer, Harris**

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#### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to develop a conduct and ethics policy for volunteer coaches involved in recreational youth athletics.

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#### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill requires the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to develop a coach's conduct and ethics policy for volunteer coaches involved in recreational youth athletics. The association must develop the policy within 90 days after the bill's effective date and provide a copy of the policy to each individual who participates in recreational youth athletics. The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association is not an entity created in state law; it is a private, nonprofit public interest group (see **COMMENT**). It appears, therefore, that the association's jurisdiction over recreational youth athletics programs extends only to individuals or entities who elect to become members of the association.

The conduct and ethics policy must require a volunteer coach to pledge to do all of the following:

- (1) Treat each coach, player, official, parent, and administrator associated with the recreational activity with respect and dignity;
- (2) Avoid placing participants in a situation that would jeopardize their health or safety;
- (3) Conduct all activities in a manner that is not harmful to the mental and physical welfare of the participants;
- (4) Cooperate with administrators of the recreational athletic activity in the enforcement of the rules associated with the activity;

(5) Manage all games, competitions, and practices in such a manner that all participants have an equal opportunity to improve their athletic skills through active participation;

(6) Learn the strengths and weaknesses of the participants, and encourage them to have fun;

(7) Encourage the participants to learn the fundamentals of the recreational athletic activity and good sportsmanship;

(8) Report to an administrator of the recreational athletic activity any situation or practice that violates reasonable recreational guidelines; and

(9) Comply with any other requirement that the Association determines is beneficial to recreational youth athletics.

The association is required to include in the policy a statement that explains the possible disciplinary actions that may occur if a volunteer coach violates any pledge in the policy (R.C. 1541.80).

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## COMMENT

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's internet web site describes its structure as follows:

The Ohio Parks & Recreation Association is . . . a non-profit, public interest organization representing over 1600 professionals and citizen board members involved in providing leisure facilities and opportunities to all Ohioans as well as the tourists who visit our state each year. . . .

OPRA was initially organized in 1934 as the Ohio Recreation Association, with a separate organization, the Ohio Parks Association, formed in 1942. In 1963 ORA and OPA Incorporated to become OPRA. The Association is directed by a Board, executive director and administrative staff.

The main operating appropriations act for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly, included one nonvoting member of the association (appointed by it) on the Local Government and Library Revenue Distribution Task Force (Section 503.12) and one representative of the

Association (apparently appointed by it) on the School Physical Fitness and Wellness Advisory Council (Section 206.10.12).

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	02-20-07
Reported, S. State & Local Gov't & Veterans Affairs	10-09-07
Passed Senate (33-0)	01-23-08

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