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Senator Lucio passes bill tackling football helmet problems head on!

Senator Lucio passed House Bill 675, which regulates the age and condition of high school football helmets, Monday. The bill, authored by State Representative Eddie Lucio in the Texas House, is now headed to the governor.

"Helmets are the first line of defense when protecting football players. We cannot afford to allow our children to use protective equipment that is either old or broken," Senator Lucio said. "The passage of HB 675 represents a victory for the safety of our high school athletes."

Often, helmets used by high school athletes get passed down to younger age levels after use by varsity teams. Currently, there are no requirements for school districts to maintain records regarding the age or condition of helmets.

HB 675 bans the use of helmets that are sixteen years old or older and requires helmets older than ten years to be reconditioned at least every two years. School districts will also be required to keep documents proving the date a helmet was purchased and anytime a helmet is reconditioned.

"As student athletes continue to become faster, stronger and bigger, we must recognize the need for this type of bill," said Representative Lucio. "This piece of legislation is a simple, preventative measure in providing the utmost protection for our rising football stars."

High school football is an enthralling aspect of Texas life. However, it is also an inherently dangerous sport. Studies have shown that head injuries, specifically concussions, may lead to serious and permanent injuries. Since 2007, twenty-one former NFL players have been diagnosed post-mortem with CTE, a progressive degenerative disease caused by multiple concussions and other forms of head injury.

"As a former coach, I know how hard students work to represent their schools and communities through football - their safety should be every lawmaker's priority," said Senator Lucio.

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