Sec. 3. Concussion management pilot program for physical therapists; reports; delayed repeal

A. The department of health services, in cooperation with a statewide private entity that supervises interscholastic activities, shall:

1. Develop and conduct a two-year concussion management pilot program during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years for physical therapists licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 19, Arizona Revised Statutes, who hold a sport specialty certification. Notwithstanding section 15-341, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years, a physical therapist participating in the pilot program may assess a pupil with a suspected concussion, remove a pupil from play and provide a pupil with clearance to resume participation in athletic activity. Any evaluation by a physical therapist of cognitive consequences of concussion shall be made in consultation with a physician licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17, Arizona Revised Statutes. The concussion management pilot program shall prescribe requirements for physical therapists who participate in the program, including reporting and data collection which can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

2. On or before December 31, 2019, submit an initial report to the governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives that summarizes the department's findings and conclusions about the number of physical therapists who participated in the first year of the pilot program and the effectiveness of the first year of the pilot program. On or before December 31, 2020, the department shall submit a final report to the governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives that summarizes the department's findings and conclusions regarding the pilot program. The department shall provide a copy of the reports to the secretary of state.

3. Review and report on available health professional workforce with training and education in concussion management and emergency response on or before December 31, 2018.

B. The department of health services may adopt policies and procedures to carry out the purposes of the pilot program.

C. This section is repealed from and after March 31, 2021.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 16, 2018.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 16, 2018.