

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1509

5 By: Representatives Leding, J. Williams
6 By: Senator L. Eads
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION
10 ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST
14 PREVENTION ACT.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

21 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest
22 Prevention Act".
23

24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-708 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-18-708. Health and safety in public schools.

26 (a) A school district shall develop procedures concerning student
27 physical activity in its public schools that include without limitation the
28 recognition and management of the following events or conditions that may be
29 encountered by a student during athletic training and physical activities:

- 30 (1) A concussion, dehydration, or other health emergency;
- 31 (2) An environmental issue that threatens the health or safety
32 of students; ~~and~~
- 33 (3) A communicable disease; and
- 34 (4) A sudden cardiac arrest.

35 (b)(1) ~~Every three (3) years as part of the requirements for~~
36 ~~professional development, a~~ A person employed by a school district as an



1 athletics coach shall complete training on the events and conditions
 2 identified in ~~subsection (a) of this section:~~

3 (A) Subdivisions (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this
 4 section every three (3) years as part of the requirements for professional
 5 development; and

6 (B) Subdivision (a)(4) of this section every year as part
 7 of the requirements for professional development.

8 (2) The training may include a component on best practices for a
 9 coach to educate parents of students involved in athletics on sports safety.

10 (c)(1) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a person employed by
 11 a school district as an athletics coach who fails to meet the requirements of
 12 subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall not be eligible to coach an athletic
 13 activity until the training requirements are met.

14 (2) If a person fails to meet the requirements of subdivision
 15 (b)(1) of this section and continues to coach an athletic activity, the
 16 school district shall:

17 (A) For the first violation, suspend the person from
 18 coaching an athletic activity for the remainder of the athletic season;

19 (B) For the second violation, suspend the person from
 20 coaching an athletic activity for the remainder of the athletic season and
 21 the next athletic season; and

22 (C) For the third violation, permanently suspend the
 23 person from coaching an athletic activity.

24
 25 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended
 26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-18-712. Student sudden cardiac arrest education.

28 (a)(1) As used in this section, "athletic activity" means an organized
 29 athletic activity that is sponsored or associated with a school and in which
 30 the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen (19) years of age
 31 are:

32 (A) Engaged in an athletic game or competition against
 33 another team, club, or entity; or

34 (B) In practice or preparation for an organized athletic
 35 game or competition against another team, club, or entity.

36 (2) "Athletic activity" includes without limitation:

- 1 (A) Interscholastic athletics;
- 2 (B) Cheerleading, whether or not the cheerleading is
- 3 competitive;
- 4 (C) Club-sponsored sports activities; and
- 5 (D) Sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated
- 6 organizations.

7 (b) The Department of Health shall develop guidelines and other
 8 relevant materials to inform and educate school officials, teachers, athletic
 9 coaches, students, and parents about the nature and warning signs of sudden
 10 cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to participate
 11 in or practice an athletic activity when experiencing any of the following
 12 symptoms:

- 13 (1) Fainting or seizures during exercise;
- 14 (2) Unexplained shortness of breath;
- 15 (3) Chest pain;
- 16 (4) Dizziness;
- 17 (5) Racing heart beat; or
- 18 (6) Extreme fatigue.

19 (c) A school may hold an informational meeting before the start of
 20 each athletic activity season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of
 21 sudden cardiac arrest for the following individuals:

- 22 (1) Student competitors of all ages;
- 23 (2) Parents or legal guardians;
- 24 (3) Coaches and athletic trainers;
- 25 (4) Healthcare professionals, including without limitation
- 26 physicians and pediatric cardiologists; and
- 27 (5) Other school officials.

28 (d) Before participation in an athletic activity and before each
 29 school year while participating in an athletic activity, a student and the
 30 parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an
 31 acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding
 32 sudden cardiac arrest.

33 (e)(1) If a student faints or loses consciousness while participating
 34 in or immediately following an athletic activity, the athletic director,
 35 coach, or athletic trainer shall remove the student from participation in the
 36 athletic activity at that time.

1 (2)(A) If a student exhibits any symptom as described in
2 subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), or (b)(6) of this section while
3 participating in or immediately following an athletic activity and an
4 athletic trainer reasonably believes that the symptom is cardiac-related, the
5 athletic trainer may remove the student from participation in the athletic
6 activity at that time.

7 (B) A coach who observes a student exhibiting any symptom
8 as described in subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), or (b)(6) of
9 this section while participating in or immediately following an athletic
10 activity shall notify the parent or legal guardian of the student's symptom.

11 (3) A student who is removed from participation in an athletic
12 activity shall not be permitted to return to participation in an athletic
13 activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to
14 participation in writing by a healthcare professional.

15 (4) A coach, athletic director, or athletic trainer acting in
16 good faith under this section is not liable for any action or inaction unless
17 the coach, athletic director, or athletic trainer is acting in a grossly
18 negligent or reckless manner.

19 (f) All sponsors of youth athletic activities are encouraged to follow
20 the guidelines developed by the Department of Health.

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