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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1204 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY SAPPEY, OTTEN, HANBIDGE, DELLOSO, PROBST, BRENNAN,  
HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, HOWARD, PIELLI, KAZEEM, TAKAC,  
KHAN AND CIRESI, MAY 19, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 19, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, further  
6 providing for sudden cardiac arrest and electrocardiogram  
7 testing.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1425(d) and (h) of the act of March 10,  
11 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
12 are amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to  
13 read:

14 Section 1425. Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Electrocardiogram  
15 Testing.--\* \* \*

16 (d) (1) Once each school year, a coach of an athletic  
17 activity shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training  
18 course offered by a provider approved by the department.

19 (1.1) In accordance with clause (3), a coach of an athletic  
20 activity shall be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and

1 the use of an automated external defibrillator.

2 (2) A coach of an athletic activity shall not coach the  
3 athletic activity until the coach completes the training  
4 [course] courses required under this subsection.

5 (3) A coach shall attain and renew certifications for  
6 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated  
7 external defibrillator every two (2) years through the American  
8 Heart Association, the American Red Cross or an equivalent  
9 course of instruction approved by the department. The school  
10 entity shall keep a record of each certified coach under clause  
11 (1.1) with the date certified, and renewed, if applicable, and  
12 make the information available to the public at the school  
13 entity.

14 (d.1) Once each school year, an employee of the school  
15 entity who supervises a school-sponsored activity regardless of  
16 whether the school-sponsored activity is during or after school:

17 (1) Shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course  
18 offered by the American Heart Association, the American Red  
19 Cross or through an equivalent course of instruction approved by  
20 the department.

21 (2) May not supervise any school-sponsored activity until  
22 the employee becomes certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
23 and the use of an automated external defibrillator.

24 (3) Must attain and renew certifications every two (2) years  
25 through the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross  
26 or an equivalent course of instruction approved by the  
27 department.

28 \* \* \*

29 (h) As used in this section--

30 "Athletic activity" means all of the following:

1 (1) Interscholastic athletics.

2 (2) An athletic contest or competition, other than  
3 interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated  
4 with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored  
5 sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-  
6 affiliated organizations.

7 (3) Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or  
8 associated with a school entity.

9 (4) Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all  
10 of the activities listed under clauses (1), (2) and (3).

11 "Automated external defibrillator" means the same as  
12 "automatic external defibrillator" as defined in section  
13 1423(1).

14 "Department" means the Department of Health of the  
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Interscholastic athletics" means as defined in section 1602-  
17 A.

18 "School entity" means as defined in section 1602-A.

19 "School-sponsored activity" means assemblies, graduation  
20 ceremonies, athletics, extracurricular activities, clubs,  
21 groups, teams or any activity sponsored, held or approved by the  
22 school entity whether held during normal school hours or  
23 otherwise.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.