
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 834 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, MILLARD, BOBACK, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON,
BURGOS, PEIFER, SCHWEYER, PICKETT, ZIMMERMAN, FREEMAN,
CIRESI, DEASY, GILLEN AND HERSHEY, MARCH 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 8, 2021

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 automated external defibrillators and providing
7 for sudden cardiac event emergency action plan for athletic
8 activities.

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

11 Section 1. Section 1423 of the act of March 10, 1949
12 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
13 amended by adding a subsection to read:

14 Section 1423. Automated External Defibrillators.--* * *

15 (i.3) (1) Each school entity and nonpublic school shall
16 have an automated external defibrillator present at all
17 interscholastic athletic events, including practices, sponsored
18 by the school entity or nonpublic school.

19 (2) The automated external defibrillator required under this
20 subsection may either be property of the school entity or

1 nonpublic school or on the premises with emergency medical
2 personnel.

3 (3) If the automated external defibrillator is property of
4 the school entity or nonpublic school, school personnel who are
5 expected to use the automated external defibrillator shall
6 complete the training required under subsection (d).

7 (4) A school entity or nonpublic school may acquire an
8 automated external defibrillator required under this subsection
9 by donation, through a fundraising effort or by any other means.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

12 Section 1426. Sudden Cardiac Event Emergency Action Plan for
13 Athletic Activities.--(a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school
14 year, each school entity and nonpublic school shall establish
15 and implement a sudden cardiac event emergency action plan for
16 responding to a sudden cardiac event at an athletic activity,
17 including an event in which the use of an automated external
18 defibrillator may be necessary. The plan shall be consistent
19 with the provisions of section 1423 and include the following,
20 at a minimum:

21 (1) A cardiac emergency response team list, comprised of
22 individuals who have current cardiopulmonary
23 resuscitation/automated external defibrillator certification.
24 The list shall include school nurses, coaches and at least five
25 other full-time school personnel. The list shall be updated once
26 a year.

27 (2) Detailed procedures on responding to a sudden cardiac
28 event which shall include the identification of school personnel
29 who shall be responsible for all of the following:

30 (i) Responding to an individual experiencing a sudden

1 cardiac event.

2 (ii) Contacting 911 and providing a copy of the plan to
3 local emergency response and dispatch agencies and assisting
4 emergency responders in reaching the individual experiencing a
5 sudden cardiac event.

6 (iii) Starting cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

7 (iv) Retrieving and using the automated external
8 defibrillator.

9 (v) Placement and maintenance of automated external
10 defibrillators, including the recommended number of automated
11 external defibrillators inside a school building, outside a
12 school building and backups that shall be held in reserve for
13 use as replacements for an automated external defibrillator
14 which may be out-of-service.

15 (vi) Conducting an annual review and evaluation of the plan,
16 including comparing the plan to updated recommendations from the
17 American Heart Association. The annual review and evaluation
18 shall be conducted by the school entity's or nonpublic school's
19 administrative staff.

20 (b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
21 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
22 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

23 "Automated external defibrillator" means a portable device
24 that uses electric shock to restore a stable heart rhythm to an
25 individual in cardiac arrest.

26 "Nonpublic school" means a nonprofit school, other than a
27 public school within this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of
28 this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
29 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
30 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of

1 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

2 "School entity" means an area career and technical school, a
3 charter school, a cyber charter school, an intermediate unit or
4 a school district.

5 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.