

HOUSE BILL 1654

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Title 68, relative to school youth athletic
activities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Smart Heart Law."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-6-101, is amended by deleting the word "chapter" and substituting "part".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-6-103(b)(1)(B), is amended by adding the following immediately preceding the last sentence in the subdivision:

The program must include training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), as defined in § 68-140-402, for all participants.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The governing authority of each public and nonpublic school that serves any of the grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall maintain an automated external defibrillator (AED), as defined in § 68-140-402, that is accessible during the school day and during all school youth athletic activities in which students in any of the grades nine through twelve (9-12) are participating.

(b) An AED maintained pursuant to subsection (a) must:

(1) Be identified with signage;

(2) Be located on-site of the school youth athletic activity or placed and made available in an unlocked location on school property that is within one thousand feet (1,000') of the site of the school youth athletic activity; and

(3) Meet the requirements of title 68, chapter 140, part 408.

(c) The governing authority of a public or nonpublic school may use an AED maintained by the governing authority pursuant to § 49-2-122 or § 49-50-804 to meet the requirements of this section.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

68-6-201.

(a) As used in this part, "school youth athletic activity" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-6-102.

(b) Beginning September 1, 2024, the governing authority of each public and nonpublic school that serves any of the grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall establish, review, and annually rehearse an athletics emergency action plan (AEAP) for responding to serious or life-threatening injuries sustained by students participating in school youth athletic activities.

(c) An AEAP must:

(1) Integrate nationally recognized, evidence-based core elements or standards;

(2) Be memorialized as a written document, specific to the sites under the control of the school where school youth athletic activities are conducted;

(3) Be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services personnel; and

(4) Be distributed to all athletics staff members, school personnel identified in the AEAP under subdivision (d)(2), and healthcare professionals identified in the AEAP under subdivision (d)(3).

(d) An AEAP must, at a minimum:

(1) Identify the address or venue of each school youth athletic activity for the respective school year;

(2) Identify the personnel in each school who are responsible for carrying out the AEAP, including their assigned responsibilities and the designated chain of command;

(3) Identify any healthcare professionals who may provide medical care during school youth athletic activities;

(4) Identify any equipment and supplies that may be needed to respond to a medical emergency at a school youth athletic activity, including the location of each item;

(5) Describe the proper procedures to be followed after a serious or life-threatening injury occurs, including, but not limited to, responding to the injured individual, summoning emergency medical care, assisting emergency responders, and documenting the actions taken during the emergency; and

(6) Provide contact information for emergency medical services and directions to assist emergency personnel in accessing the location of a school youth athletic activity.

(e) The requirements of this part are in addition to the requirements of the Safe Stars Act, compiled in title 49, chapter 6, part 36.

SECTION 6. The state board of education, in consultation with the department of health, is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect upon becoming a law for purposes of promulgating rules, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2024-2025 school year and subsequent school years.