

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1219  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Feldmark, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Public and Nonpublic Middle and High Schools - Venue-Specific Emergency  
Action Plans for Athletic Facilities (The Bailey Bullock Act)

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This bill requires each public middle and high school to include a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) as a component of its venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities. It also requires all nonpublic middle and high schools receiving State funding to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities, including a CERP, identical to the emergency action plans required of public middle and high schools. For both public and nonpublic schools, the CERP must (1) identify the appropriate school personnel as the cardiac emergency response team to respond to incidents involving sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while at an athletic facility; (2) coordinate with first responders in the local emergency medical services (EMS) to integrate the plan into local emergency response protocols; (3) include specified evidence-based core elements recommended by an appropriate national organization; and (4) be annually reviewed and updated by each middle school and high school. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** To the extent that the bill requires nonpublic schools to comply with provisions of the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) expenditures may increase, beginning in FY 2025, to furnish AEDs. The extent of such additional expenditures cannot be reliably estimated at this time.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems may incur minimal administrative and training costs under the bill, but school systems can likely integrate the required plan into existing related plans and practices with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

### Current Law:

#### *Venue-specific Emergency Action Plan for Public School Athletic Facilities*

Chapter 212 of 2022 requires each middle school and high school to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for the operation and use of AEDs and for heat acclimatization. The venue-specific emergency action plan must also include coordination of care for other injuries and severe weather for outdoor facilities.

The venue-specific emergency action plan must include guidelines for heat acclimatization for student athletes, as specified, and ensure that (1) each school is properly prepared and equipped to initiate cold water immersion for the treatment of exertional heat stroke; (2) a cooling modality is readily available to student athletes at all athletic practices and events on school property; (3) all members of the coaching staff are trained in cold water immersion; and (4) a trained member of the coaching staff is present at all athletic practices and events on school property.

#### *Public Schools Automated External Defibrillator Program*

Each county board must develop and implement an AED Program that meets certain requirements for each high school and middle school in the county. Each middle school and high school must develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for the operation and use of AEDs. Each middle school and high school must also develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for all athletic facilities that, among other provisions, includes operation and use of AEDs.

According to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), each county board must develop and implement a High School and Middle School AED Program requiring, at minimum one:

- AED on site in each public high school and middle school, which must be available for use at each school-sponsored athletic event;
- individual trained in the operation and use of an AED present at each school-sponsored athletic event; and
- individual trained in the operation and use of an AED on site at each high school and middle school during the regular school day.

Among other specifications, the program must (1) comply with the rules, regulations, and policies that the State EMS Board determines are applicable; (2) designate an AED coordinator who is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED operation who

is responsible for implementation and administration of the AED Program; and (3) contact and collaborate with the closest jurisdictional EMS operational program once the High School and Middle School AED Program is approved by the EMS Board.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must develop policies and implement a program to provide awareness to coaches, school personnel, students, and the parents of students, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, each county board, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association, Parent Heart Watch, and licensed health care providers who treat heart issues on (1) the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and (2) the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing a symptom of sudden cardiac arrest.

#### *Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program*

The AED Program permits an organization, business, association, or agency that meets specified requirements to make AEDs available to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. MIEMSS oversees the program, including approving entities to participate and issuing registrations. Under COMAR to be eligible for registration or renewal of registration, each facility must designate an AED coordinator who must:

- complete cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED training and subsequent refresher training, in accordance with specified requirements;
- be responsible for implementing and administering the AED Program at the facility; and
- ensure that monthly safety inspections of all supplemental and AED equipment are conducted.

Likewise, a facility must ensure that all expected AED operators have completed CPR and AED training and subsequent refresher training, as specified. AEDs must be placed in locations that are visible and readily accessible to any person willing to operate the AED in the event of a suspected cardiac arrest. A facility at which an AED is operated must have a telephone or communication service available at all times for the notification of a public safety answering point; it must also submit data or other information concerning the AED Program as requested by MIEMSS.

**Additional Comments:** MSDE advises that 352 nonpublic schools in Maryland currently participate in at least one of the three programs that provide funding to nonpublic schools. Nonpublic schools may incur additional expenses to develop and administer the required bills.

## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 1024 (Senator Brooks) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2024  
rh/mcr Third Reader - March 28, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 28, 2024

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