

SENATE BILL 1024

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4lr2332
CF 4lr2536

By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Cardiac Emergency Action Plan – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each public school to develop and implement a cardiac
4 emergency response plan beginning on a certain date; and generally relating to a
5 cardiac emergency action plan in public schools.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 7–436
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Education**

14 7–436.

15 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (2) (i) “Athletic activity” means:

- 17 1. Interscholastic athletics;
- 18 2. An athletic contest or competition that is sponsored by or
19 associated with a school; and
- 20 3. Practices and scrimmages.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) "Athletic activity" includes cheerleading and sports sponsored by
2 school-affiliated organizations.

3 (3) "Sudden cardiac arrest" means a condition in which the heart suddenly
4 and unexpectedly stops beating.

5 (4) "Youth sports program" means a program organized for recreational
6 athletic competition or instruction for participants who are under the age of 19 years.

7 (b) Nothing in this section may be construed to create, establish, expand, reduce,
8 contract, or eliminate any civil liability on the part of a county board employee, school
9 employee, or youth sports program volunteer.

10 (c) (1) The Department shall develop policies and implement a program to
11 provide awareness to coaches, school personnel, students, and the parents or guardians of
12 students, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, each county board, the
13 Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the Maryland Athletic Trainers'
14 Association, Parent Heart Watch, and licensed health care providers who treat heart
15 issues, on:

16 (i) The nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including
17 fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and abnormal heart rate; and

18 (ii) The risks associated with continuing to play or practice after
19 experiencing a symptom of sudden cardiac arrest.

20 (2) The program shall include a process to verify that a coach has received
21 information on the program developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

22 (3) (i) Before a student enrolled in a public school system in the State
23 may participate in an authorized athletic activity, the county board shall provide a sudden
24 cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet to the student and a parent
25 or guardian of the student.

26 (ii) The student and the parent or guardian of the student shall sign
27 a statement acknowledging receipt of the information sheet.

28 (iii) The Department shall create the information sheet and
29 acknowledgment statement required under this paragraph.

30 (4) The Department may use materials available from the Centers for
31 Disease Control and Prevention, Parent Heart Watch, Sudden Arrhythmia Death
32 Syndromes Foundation, **THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**, or any other appropriate
33 entity to carry out the requirements of this subsection.

34 (d) A public school may hold an informational meeting before the start of each
35 athletic season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

1 (e) (1) Before an individual participates in an authorized athletic activity on
2 school property, the county board shall provide, or require that a third party provide:

3 (i) Information on sudden cardiac arrest to the individual and, if
4 applicable, a parent or guardian of the individual; and

5 (ii) Notice that acknowledgment of the receipt of the information by
6 the individual and, if applicable, the parent or guardian of the individual, is required.

7 (2) The information required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
8 be in the form of:

9 (i) A separate information sheet; or

10 (ii) A notice on the registration form for a youth sports program
11 stating that information on sudden cardiac arrest is available, including directions on how
12 to receive the information electronically.

13 (3) The individual and, if applicable, the parent or guardian of the
14 individual shall:

15 (i) Acknowledge receipt of the information by:

16 1. Signature;

17 2. Checking an acknowledgment box on the registration
18 form; or

19 3. Another method of written or electronic acknowledgment;
20 and

21 (ii) Return the acknowledgment to the county board or third party.

22 (f) (1) A youth sports program that uses a public school facility shall provide
23 annually to the county board or the board's agent a statement of intent to comply for all its
24 athletic activities with the requirements of subsection (e) of this section.

25 (2) A youth sports program that does not use a public school facility is
26 encouraged to follow the guidelines of this section.

27 **(G) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH PUBLIC**
28 **SCHOOL SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CARDIAC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN.**

29 **(2) A PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

1 **(I) IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL PERSONNEL AS THE**
2 **CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TO RESPOND TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING AN**
3 **INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST OR A SIMILAR**
4 **LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY WHILE ON SCHOOL GROUNDS;**

5 **(II) IDENTIFY AND COORDINATE WITH FIRST RESPONDERS IN**
6 **THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO INTEGRATE THE CARDIAC**
7 **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN INTO LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOLS; AND**

8 **(III) INCLUDE, AT MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING EVIDENCE-BASED**
9 **CORE ELEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY AN APPROPRIATE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION,**
10 **INCLUDING THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION:**

11 **1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARDIAC EMERGENCY**
12 **RESPONSE TEAM;**

13 **2. PROCEDURES FOR ACTIVATING THE CARDIAC**
14 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM DURING INCIDENTS INVOLVING AN INDIVIDUAL**
15 **EXPERIENCING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST OR A SIMILAR LIFE-THREATENING**
16 **EMERGENCY WHILE ON SCHOOL GROUNDS;**

17 **3. REQUIRING SPECIFIED SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO HAVE**
18 **CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) TRAINING AND AUTOMATED EXTERNAL**
19 **DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-425 OF THIS SUBTITLE,**
20 **INCLUDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM MEMBERS, ATHLETIC COACHING AND**
21 **TRAINING STAFF, AND SCHOOL NURSES; AND**

22 **4. PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF AUTOMATED**
23 **EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNTY BOARD'S**
24 **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM UNDER § 7-425 OF THIS**
25 **SUBTITLE.**

26 **(3) A CARDIAC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS**
27 **SECTION SHALL BE:**

28 **(I) POSTED AROUND SCHOOL GROUNDS AND AT EACH**
29 **ATHLETIC FACILITY AT THE SCHOOL;**

30 **(II) POSTED ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE AT THE BEGINNING OF**
31 **EACH SCHOOL YEAR;**

1 **(III) DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CARDIAC**
2 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM, THE SCHOOL’S ATHLETIC COACHING AND TRAINING**
3 **STAFF, SCHOOL NURSES, AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL; AND**

4 **(IV) PERIODICALLY REHEARSED IN PERSON AND**
5 **INTERACTIVELY BY THE CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM.**

6 **(4) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE CARDIAC**
7 **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN EACH YEAR.**

8 **(5) A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY INTEGRATE A CARDIAC EMERGENCY**
9 **ACTION PLAN INTO AN EXISTING VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**
10 **UNDER § 7-451 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2024.