

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H2/24/17 S3/28/17*

2 91st General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 1509

4

5 By: Representatives Leding, J. Williams

6 By: Senator L. Eads

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION

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ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

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TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

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PREVENTION ACT.

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

21 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest

22 Prevention Act".

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24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-708 is amended to read as follows:

25 6-18-708. Health and safety in public schools.

26 (a) A school district shall develop procedures concerning student

27 physical activity in its public schools that include without limitation the

28 recognition and management of the following events or conditions that may be

29 encountered by a student during athletic training and physical activities:

30 (1) A concussion, dehydration, or other health emergency;

31 (2) An environmental issue that threatens the health or safety

32 of students; ~~and~~

33 (3) A communicable disease; and

34 (4) A sudden cardiac arrest.

35 (b)(1) *Every three (3) years as part of the requirements for*

36 *professional development, a person employed by a school district as an*



1 athletics coach shall complete training on the events and conditions  
2 *identified in subsection (a) of this section.*

3 (2) The training may include a component on best practices for a  
4 coach to educate parents of students involved in athletics on sports safety.

5 (c)(1) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a person employed by  
6 a school district as an athletics coach who fails to meet the requirements of  
7 subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall not be eligible to coach an athletic  
8 activity until the training requirements are met.

9 (2) If a person fails to meet the requirements of subdivision  
10 (b)(1) of this section and continues to coach an athletic activity, the  
11 school district shall:

12 (A) For the first violation, suspend the person from  
13 coaching an athletic activity until training requirements are met;

14 (B) For the second violation, suspend the person from  
15 coaching an athletic activity for the remainder of the athletic season and  
16 the next athletic season; and

17 (C) For the third violation, permanently suspend the  
18 person from coaching an athletic activity.

19  
20 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended  
21 to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 6-18-712. Student sudden cardiac arrest education.

23 (a)(1) As used in this section, "athletic activity" means an organized  
24 athletic activity that is sponsored or associated with a school and in which  
25 the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen (19) years of age  
26 are:

27 (A) Engaged in an athletic game or competition against  
28 another team, club, or entity; or

29 (B) In practice or preparation for an organized athletic  
30 game or competition against another team, club, or entity.

31 (2) "Athletic activity" includes without limitation:

32 (A) Interscholastic athletics;

33 (B) Cheerleading, whether or not the cheerleading is  
34 competitive;

35 (C) Club-sponsored sports activities; and

36 (D) Sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated

1 organizations.

2 (b) The Department of Education shall develop guidelines and other  
3 relevant materials to inform and educate school officials, teachers, athletic  
4 coaches, students, and parents about the nature and warning signs of sudden  
5 cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to participate  
6 in or practice an athletic activity when experiencing any of the following  
7 symptoms:

8 (1) Fainting or seizures during exercise;

9 (2) Unexplained shortness of breath;

10 (3) Chest pain;

11 (4) Dizziness;

12 (5) Racing heart beat; or

13 (6) Extreme fatigue.

14 (c) A school may hold an informational meeting before the start of  
15 each athletic activity season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of  
16 sudden cardiac arrest for the following individuals:

17 (1) Student competitors of all ages;

18 (2) Parents or legal guardians;

19 (3) Coaches and athletic trainers;

20 (4) Healthcare professionals, including without limitation  
21 physicians and pediatric cardiologists; and

22 (5) Other school officials.

23 (d) Before participation in an athletic activity and before each  
24 school year while participating in an athletic activity, a student and the  
25 parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an  
26 acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding  
27 sudden cardiac arrest.

28 (e)(1) If a student faints or loses consciousness while participating  
29 in or immediately following an athletic activity, the athletic director,  
30 coach, or athletic trainer shall remove the student from participation in the  
31 athletic activity at that time.

32 (2)(A) If a student exhibits any symptom as described in  
33 subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), or (b)(6) of this section while  
34 participating in or immediately following an athletic activity and an  
35 athletic trainer reasonably believes that the symptom is cardiac-related, the  
36 athletic trainer may remove the student from participation in the athletic

1 activity at that time.

2 (B) A coach who observes a student exhibiting any symptom  
3 as described in subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), or (b)(6) of  
4 this section while participating in or immediately following an athletic  
5 activity shall notify the parent or legal guardian of the student's symptom.

6 (3) A student who is removed from participation in an athletic  
7 activity shall not be permitted to return to participation in an athletic  
8 activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to  
9 participation in writing by a licensed medical physician in the State of  
10 Arkansas.

11 (4) A coach, athletic director, school nurse, or athletic  
12 trainer acting in good faith under this section is not liable for any action  
13 or inaction unless the coach, athletic director, school nurse, or athletic  
14 trainer is acting in a grossly negligent or reckless manner.

15 (f) All sponsors of youth athletic activities are encouraged to follow  
16 the guidelines developed by the Department of Health.

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18 */s/Leding*

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21 **APPROVED: 04/06/2017**  
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