

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H2/24/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1509

5 By: Representatives Leding, J. Williams
6 By: Senator L. Eads
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION
10 ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST
15 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.

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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 healthcare professional.

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

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

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