

HOUSE BILL 1219

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4lr2536
CF SB 1024

By: **Delegate Feldmark**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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.



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

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

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

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

(c) (1) The Department shall develop policies and implement a program to provide awareness to coaches, school personnel, students, and the parents or guardians 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) A separate information sheet; or

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

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

(i) Acknowledge receipt of the information by:

1. Signature;

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

3. Another method of written or electronic acknowledgment; and

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

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

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

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

(2) A PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

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

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

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

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM;

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

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

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

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

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

(II) POSTED ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE AT THE BEGINNING OF 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.