

HOUSE BILL 686

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HB 1259/23 – HRU

4lr2809

By: **Delegates Simmons, Arikan, Bagnall, D. Jones, Martinez, Phillips, Roberson, Terrasa, Wilkins, Williams, Wims, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Youth Sports Programs – Venue-Specific Emergency Action Plans –**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a youth sports program to develop venue-specific emergency
5 action plans for each facility that is used by the youth sports program during relevant
6 athletic seasons; requiring each facility at which a youth sports program holds a
7 practice or an event to procure an automated external defibrillator that the youth
8 sports program may use to satisfy a certain requirement; and generally relating to
9 youth sports programs.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 14–501
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 14–501.

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

20 (2) “Concussion” means a traumatic injury to the brain causing an
21 immediate and, usually, short-lived change in mental status or an alteration of normal
22 consciousness resulting from:

23 (i) A fall;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) A violent blow to the head or body; or

(iii) The shaking or spinning of the head or body.

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

(4) “Youth athlete” means an individual who participates in an athletic activity in association with a youth sports program conducted:

(i) At a public school facility; or

(ii) By a recreational athletic organization.

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

(b) (1) A youth sports program shall make available information on concussions, head injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest developed by the State Department of Education under §§ 7–433 and 7–436 of the Education Article to coaches, youth athletes, and the parents or guardians of youth athletes.

(2) A coach of a youth sports program shall review the information provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) (1) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from play at that time.

(2) A youth athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the youth athlete has obtained written clearance from a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

(D) (1) A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM SHALL DEVELOP VENUE–SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR EACH FACILITY THAT IS USED BY THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM DURING THE RELEVANT ATHLETIC SEASON.

(2) A VENUE–SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) THE OPERATION AND USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 13–517 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE;

(II) PROVISION OF FIRST AID; AND

(III) COORDINATION OF CARE FOR:

1 **1. OTHER EMERGENT INJURIES, INCLUDING CERVICAL**
2 **SPINAL INJURY, CONCUSSION AND CLOSED HEAD INJURY, AND MAJOR ORTHOPEDIC**
3 **INJURIES; AND**

4 **2. SEVERE WEATHER FOR PRACTICES AND EVENTS AT**
5 **OUTDOOR FACILITIES.**

6 **(3) A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED**
7 **UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE:**

8 **(I) AVAILABLE ON THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM'S WEBSITE**
9 **FOR VIEWING BY A PARTICIPANT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN AT THE BEGINNING OF**
10 **EACH ATHLETIC SEASON;**

11 **(II) DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE COACHING STAFF;**
12 **AND**

13 **(III) REHEARSED IN PERSON AND INTERACTIVELY BY ALL**
14 **MEMBERS OF THE COACHING STAFF OF EACH SPORT BEFORE EACH RESPECTIVE**
15 **ATHLETIC SEASON.**

16 **(4) THE PROVISIONS OF A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION**
17 **PLAN FOR THE OPERATION AND USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**
18 **SHALL ENSURE THAT:**

19 **(I) AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR IS PRESENT AT**
20 **OR WITHIN A BRIEF WALK OF EACH ATHLETIC PRACTICE AND EVENT;**

21 **(II) AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR IS FREELY**
22 **ACCESSIBLE DURING EACH ATHLETIC PRACTICE AND EVENT;**

23 **(III) ALL MEMBERS OF THE COACHING STAFF ARE TRAINED IN**
24 **THE OPERATION AND USE OF AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR; AND**

25 **(IV) A TRAINED MEMBER OF THE COACHING STAFF IS PRESENT**
26 **AT EACH ATHLETIC PRACTICE AND EVENT.**

27 **(5) THE PROVISIONS OF A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION**
28 **PLAN FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST AID SHALL REQUIRE ALL MEMBERS OF**
29 **THE COACHING STAFF TO HOLD A VALID FIRST AID CERTIFICATION FROM THE**
30 **AMERICAN RED CROSS OR ANOTHER PROGRAM WITH EQUIVALENT STANDARDS.**

1 **(6) EACH FACILITY AT WHICH A YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM HOLDS A**
2 **PRACTICE OR AN EVENT SHALL PROCURE AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL**
3 **DEFIBRILLATOR THAT THE YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM MAY USE TO SATISFY THE**
4 **REQUIREMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

5 **[(d)] (E)** Before a youth sports program may use a facility owned or operated by
6 a local government, the local government shall provide notice to the youth sports program
7 of the requirements of this section.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2024.