

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 652

By Senator Grady

[Introduced March 3, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Education; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-22e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to expanding provisions pertaining to cardiac arrest to be applicable to elementary
3 schools; and imposing certain cardiac arrest related requirements on coaches and any
4 other personnel supervising a youth sports league team that plays or practices on school
5 grounds.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.
§18-5-22e. Cardiac response plans.

1 (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms are defined:

2 "Cardiac Emergency Response Plan" or "the plan" means a written document that
3 establishes the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest.

4 "Automated External Defibrillator" means a lightweight, portable device that delivers an
5 electric shock through the chest to the heart.

6 "School" means any elementary or secondary school ~~with an athletic department or~~
7 ~~organized athletic program~~ under the jurisdiction of a county board of education.

8 "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" means when the heart malfunctions and stops beating
9 unexpectedly.

10 "Youth sports league team" means any team that is a member of an entity that organizes
11 and establishes rules for competitive youth sports activities other than the West Virginia
12 Secondary School Activities Commission or any other entity that organizes and establishes rules
13 for competitive youth sports activities exclusively for teams that are created by and represent
14 schools.

15 (b) A school shall develop a cardiac emergency response plan that provides for the
16 following:

17 (1) A school ~~with an athletic department or organized athletic program~~ shall develop a
18 cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to

19 respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-
20 threatening emergency while attending or participating in an athletic practice or event while on
21 school grounds; and

22 (2) School staff trained in first-aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillator use that follow
23 evidence-based guidelines including but not limited to licensed coaches, school nurses, and
24 athletic trainers.

25 (c) Prior to the start of each athletic season, a school subject to this section shall hold an
26 informational meeting for students, parents, guardians, or other persons having care or charge of
27 a student, regarding the warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for children of all ages.

28 (d) No student may participate in an athletic activity until the student has submitted to a
29 designated school official, a form signed by the student and the parent, guardian, or other person
30 having care or charge of the student, stating that the student and the parent, guardian, or other
31 person having care or charge of the student have received and reviewed a copy of the cardiac
32 emergency response plan developed by the school and posted on its webpage. A completed form
33 shall be submitted each school year in which the student participates in an athletic activity.

34 (e) No individual may coach an athletic activity unless the individual has completed, on an
35 annual basis, the sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Department of Education.

36 (f) A student shall not be allowed to participate in an athletic activity if either of the following
37 is the case:

38 (1) The student is known to have exhibited syncope or fainting at any time prior to or
39 following an athletic activity and has not been evaluated and cleared for return after exhibiting
40 syncope or fainting; or

41 (2) The student experiences syncope or fainting while participating in, or immediately
42 following, an athletic activity.

43 (g) If a student is not allowed to participate in or is removed from participation in an athletic
44 activity under subsection (f) of this section, the student shall not be allowed to return to

participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return in writing by any of the following:

(1) A physician authorized under §30-3-1 *et seq.* and §30-14-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(2) A certified nurse practitioner, or certified nurse specialist; or

(3) A physician assistant licensed under §30-3E-1 *et seq.* and §30-14A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(h) School officials shall work directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the plan into the community's EMS responder protocols, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Establishing a cardiac emergency response team;

(2) Activating the team in response to a sudden cardiac arrest;

(3) Implementing automated external defibrillator placement and routine maintenance within the school;

(4) Disseminating the plan throughout the school campus;

(5) Maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR/AED use;

(6) Plan for practicing skills learned;

(7) Integrating local EMS with the plan;

(8) Ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the plan; and

(9) Appropriate automated external defibrillator placement.

(i) The State Board of Education may promulgate a legislative rule pursuant §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code to ensure compliance with this section by county school boards.

(j) A county board of education may accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations designated for the purchase of an automatic external defibrillator that meets the standards established by the United States Food and Drug Administration and for the costs incurred to inspect and maintain such device and train staff in the use of such device.

(k) Coaches and any other personnel supervising a youth sports league team that plays or practices on school grounds shall:

- 71 (1) Receive a copy of the cardiac emergency response plan;
72 (2) Locate and be aware of the automated external defibrillator placement on the school
73 grounds;
74 (3) Maintain ongoing staff training in CPR/AED use; and
75 (4) Practice the skills learned.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to expand provisions pertaining to cardiac arrest to be applicable to elementary schools; and impose certain cardiac arrest related requirements on coaches and any other personnel supervising a youth sports league team that plays or practices on school grounds.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.