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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brown and Bird

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SUMMARY

- Requires the placement of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in each public and chartered nonpublic school and each municipal sports and recreation location.
- Modifies training requirements related to AEDs in public and chartered nonpublic schools.
- Requires the Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs by public and chartered nonpublic schools, youth sports organizations, and municipal sports and recreation locations.
- Requires, rather than permits, each public and chartered nonpublic school and youth sports organization, before each athletic season, to hold an informational meeting regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for student and youth athletes.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

AEDs in schools and sports and recreation locations

Schools

Placement

The bill revises the law on the placement of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools by requiring, rather than permitting, their placement in schools and by expanding the locations to which the law applies.

Current law authorizes each school district, community school, and chartered nonpublic school to require the placement of an AED in each school under its control. It is silent regarding

the placement of AEDs in other schools. The bill, however, requires all school districts, community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to place an AED in each school under its control.¹

Training and model action plan

Regarding training in the use of AEDs, the bill requires each district and school to provide training to teachers, principals, administrative employees, coaches, athletic trainers, other persons that supervise interscholastic athletics, and any other employee subject to in-service training requirements under continuing law. The training must be incorporated into the in-service training. Training may be provided to any other employee.² The bill's training provisions are in place of provisions in existing law that require:

- School districts to train each person employed by the district, other than substitutes, certain adult education instructors, and persons employed on an as needed, seasonal, or intermittent basis, so long as the exempted person is not employed to coach or supervise interscholastic athletics;³
- Chartered nonpublic schools and community schools, if AED placement is required by the school under the permissive authority in existing law, to require that a sufficient number of the staff assigned to each school complete appropriate training in the use of an AED.⁴

The bill requires each district and school to adopt an emergency action plan for the use of AEDs. They may use the model plan developed by the Department of Health (see below).

Violations

The bill requires the Department of Education to develop a procedure for reporting violations of the bill's requirement to place AEDs in schools.⁵

Sports and recreation locations

The bill requires the controlling authorities of municipal sports and recreation locations to place an AED in each location under their control. The bill defines "sports and recreation location" as indoor recreation centers and facilities, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and playing fields that are designated, operated, and maintained under existing law that authorizes municipal corporations, townships, and counties to create boards to supervise and maintain parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public paths, swimming pools, or indoor recreation centers.

¹ R.C. 3313.6023, 3313.717, 3314.16, 3326.11, and 3328.24.

² R.C. 3313.6023(A).

³ R.C. 3313.6023(B) and 3313.717(B).

⁴ R.C. 3313.717 and 3314.16.

⁵ R.C. 3313.6023, 3313.717, 3314.16, 3326.11, and 3328.24.

The bill requires each controlling authority to have a sufficient number of staff persons at each sports and recreation location successfully complete an appropriate training course in the use of AEDs and to adopt an emergency action plan for their use.⁶

Finally, the Department of Health must develop a procedure by which persons may report violations of the bill's requirement to place AEDs in sports and recreation locations.⁷

Model emergency action plan

The bill requires the Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs by public and chartered nonpublic schools, youth sports organizations, and sports and recreation locations. The model plan must require that the plan be practiced at least quarterly.⁸

Sudden cardiac arrest information – student and youth athletes

The bill requires, rather than permits as under current law, public and chartered nonpublic schools and youth sports organizations to hold informational meetings regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students or youth athletes, before the start of each athletic season.⁹

The Department of Health must develop a procedure for reporting youth sports organizations that violate the protocols regarding sudden cardiac arrest in continuing law, discussed below, and the bill's mandatory information meeting provision.¹⁰

Background – sudden cardiac arrest protocols

Continuing law prescribes the following protocols for recognizing sudden cardiac arrest in student and youth athletes:

1. Each student and youth athlete, before participating in an athletic activity, must submit a signed form indicating review of sudden cardiac arrest guidelines, which the Departments of Health and Education must develop jointly;
2. A student or youth athlete must be evaluated and cleared by specified health professionals before participation if (a) the student or athlete's biological parent, sibling, or child has experienced sudden cardiac arrest, or (b) the student or athlete is known to have exhibited syncope or fainting at any time before or following an athletic activity;

⁶ R.C. 755.13.

⁷ R.C. 3701.851.

⁸ R.C. 3701.851.

⁹ R.C. 3313.5310(B) and 3707.58(B); R.C. 3313.5310 applies to community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools through references in R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d), not in the bill, 3326.11, and 3328.24.

¹⁰ R.C. 3701.851.

3. A coach must remove a student or youth athlete from participation if the student or athlete exhibits syncope or fainting, and the student or athlete cannot return to participation until evaluated and cleared by a specified health professional; and
4. An individual may not coach an athletic activity unless the individual has completed, on an annual basis, a sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Department of Health.¹¹

With regard to the annual training, the bill clarifies, in the school law, that “individual” includes coaches and assistant coaches.¹²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-15-23

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¹¹ R.C. 3313.5310, 3707.58, and 3707.59, latter not in the bill.

¹² R.C. 3313.5310(D).