
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1685 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BRENNAN, PROBST, BOROWSKI, PIELLI, McNEILL,
HOWARD, MADSEN, MADDEN, HADDOCK, KHAN, GUENST, HILL-EVANS,
SANCHEZ, KINSEY, DONAHUE, MAYES, FREEMAN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,
CIRESI, GREEN, SCHLOSSBERG, WARREN AND OTTEN,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, further
6 providing for automated external defibrillators and providing
7 for sudden cardiac event emergency action plan for athletic
8 activities.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 1423 of the act of March 10, 1949
12 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
13 amended by adding a subsection to read:

14 Section 1423. Automated External Defibrillators.--* * *

15 (i.3) (1) Each school entity and nonpublic school shall
16 have an automated external defibrillator present at all
17 interscholastic athletic events, including practices, sponsored
18 by the school entity or nonpublic school.

19 (2) The automated external defibrillator required under this

1 subsection may either be property of the school entity or
2 nonpublic school or on the premises with emergency medical
3 personnel.

4 (3) If the automated external defibrillator is property of
5 the school entity or nonpublic school, school personnel who are
6 expected to use the automated external defibrillator shall
7 complete the training required under subsection (d).

8 (4) A school entity or nonpublic school may acquire an
9 automated external defibrillator required under this subsection
10 by donation, through a fundraising effort or by any other means.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

13 Section 1426. Sudden Cardiac Event Emergency Action Plan for
14 Athletic Activities.--(a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school
15 year, each school entity and nonpublic school shall establish
16 and implement a sudden cardiac event emergency action plan for
17 responding to a sudden cardiac event at an athletic activity,
18 including an event in which the use of an automated external
19 defibrillator may be necessary. The plan shall be consistent
20 with the provisions of section 1423 and include the following,
21 at a minimum:

22 (1) A cardiac emergency response team list, comprised of
23 individuals who have current cardiopulmonary
24 resuscitation/automated external defibrillator certification.
25 The list shall include school nurses, coaches and at least five
26 other full-time school personnel. The list shall be updated once
27 a year.

28 (2) Detailed procedures on responding to a sudden cardiac
29 event which shall include the identification of school personnel
30 who shall be responsible for all of the following:

1 (i) Responding to an individual experiencing a sudden
2 cardiac event.

3 (ii) Contacting 911 and providing a copy of the plan to
4 local emergency response and dispatch agencies and assisting
5 emergency responders in reaching the individual experiencing a
6 sudden cardiac event.

7 (iii) Starting cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

8 (iv) Retrieving and using the automated external
9 defibrillator.

10 (v) Placement and maintenance of automated external
11 defibrillators, including the recommended number of automated
12 external defibrillators inside a school building, outside a
13 school building and backups that shall be held in reserve for
14 use as replacements for an automated external defibrillator
15 which may be out-of-service.

16 (vi) Conducting an annual review and evaluation of the plan,
17 including comparing the plan to updated recommendations from the
18 American Heart Association. The annual review and evaluation
19 shall be conducted by the school entity's or nonpublic school's
20 administrative staff.

21 (b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
22 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
23 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 "Automated external defibrillator" means a portable device
25 that uses electric shock to restore a stable heart rhythm to an
26 individual in cardiac arrest.

27 "Nonpublic school" means a nonprofit school, other than a
28 public school within this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of
29 this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
30 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the

1 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
2 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

3 "School entity" means an area career and technical school, a
4 charter school, a cyber charter school, an intermediate unit or
5 a school district.

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.