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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Paiva Weed, Algieri, and Miller

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-33.1. Automatic external defibrillators. – (a) Legislative findings-**

4 (1) Approximately three hundred twenty-five thousand (325,000) Americans suffer
5 sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) each year and more than ninety-five percent (95%) of them die
6 before reaching the hospital;

7 (2) In the population of Rhode Island, an estimated one thousand (1,000) residents will
8 die of cardiac arrest every year;

9 (3) No official statistics have been gathered about SCA in children, however experts
10 estimate about three hundred (300) deaths because of SCA every year for people under the age of
11 twenty-one (21) (or about one tenth of one percent (.1%));

12 (4) This means that at least one person under the age of twenty-one (21), most likely a
13 student, will die due to athletics related SCA every year in Rhode Island;

14 (5) If defibrillation is performed within five (5) to seven (7) minutes, chances of survival
15 are increased by forty-nine percent (49%). Every minute that goes by without defibrillation
16 reduces the chance of survival by seven (7) to ten percent (10%);

17 (6) Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are extremely accurate computerized
18 devices that can be operated by the average person;

19 (7) AEDs are inexpensive and grants for AEDs are mostly given to non-profit

1 organizations, such as schools; and

2 (8) AEDs can be acquired through grants from various organizations or through
3 government agencies.

4 (b) All high schools and middle schools, whether they are public or privately run, shall
5 have a functional automated external defibrillator (AED) on school grounds at all times. A
6 functional AED must be at all times deployed in a manner in which best provides accessibility to
7 staff, coaches, and athletic trainers for all sporting events involving school teams. During any and
8 all sporting events, at least one person must be properly trained by the American Heart
9 Association or comparable state recognized agency in the use of the AED.

10 (c) No staff, coaches, athletic trainers, or any other school personnel shall be liable for
11 civil damages which may result from acts or omissions in use of the AED which may constitute
12 ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross
13 negligence or willful or wanton conduct.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on August 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would mandate that all high schools and middle schools whether they be public
2 or private and all athletic fields or other locations where high school or middle schools compete
3 in sporting events, have a functional Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site at all times.

4 This act would take effect on August 1, 2015.

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