

2016 -- H 7275

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LC003771
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Malik, Hull, Bennett, Azzinaro, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: January 21, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Legislative findings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (7) AEDs are inexpensive and grants for AEDs are mostly given to nonprofit
18 organizations, such as schools; and

19 (8) AEDs can be acquired through grants from various organizations or through

1 government agencies.

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

4 **16-21-33.1. Automated external defibrillators (AED).** -- All high schools and middle
5 schools, whether they are public or privately run, must have a functional automated external
6 defibrillators (AED) on school grounds at all times. There shall be a functional AED present on
7 or in the playing field, court, or arena at all sporting events involving school teams.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on August 1, 2016.

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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 public or
2 private, and all athletic fields or other locations where high school or middle schools compete in
3 sporting events, have a functional Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site at all times.

4 This act would take effect on August 1, 2016.

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