

2023 -- H 5670

LC002004

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representative Joseph J. Solomon

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-91.1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-91.1 entitled "The
2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-91.1-3. School districts' guidelines to be developed and implemented.**

4 (a) The department of education and the department of health shall promulgate guidelines
5 to inform and educate coaches, teachers, school nurses, youth athletes, and their parents and/or
6 guardians about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks associated
7 with continuing to play or practice after experiencing the following symptoms: fainting or seizures
8 during exercise, unexplained shortness of breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate and
9 extreme fatigue.

10 (b) School districts may use training materials made available at no cost to the school
11 district by organizations such as Simon's Fund, Parent Heart Watch, Sudden Arrhythmia Death
12 Syndromes Foundation, or training materials substantively and substantially similar thereto. The
13 department of education shall post links to training materials on its website. All coaches and
14 volunteers involved in a youth sport program or activity covered by this chapter must complete a
15 training course that may be completed online about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac
16 arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing
17 symptoms including: fainting or seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of breath, chest
18 pains, dizziness, racing heart rate and extreme fatigue. Training may consist of videos, classes, and
19 any other generally accepted mode and medium of providing information.

1 (c) Parents and/or guardians shall be provided with information as to the nature and
2 warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest prior to the start of every sport season.

3 (d)(1) A student who, as determined by a game official, coach from the student's team,
4 certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, or other official designated by the student's school
5 entity, exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in an athletic activity
6 shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time, subject to subsection (d)(3) of this
7 section.

8 (2) If a student is known to have exhibited signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest at
9 any time prior to or following an athletic activity, the student shall be prevented from participating
10 in an athletic activity, subject to subsection (d)(3) of this section.

11 (3) A student removed or prevented from participating in an athletic activity under
12 subsections (d)(1) or (d)(2) of this section shall not return to participation until the student is
13 evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a licensed physician, certified
14 registered nurse practitioner, or cardiologist.

15 (e) All school districts are ~~encouraged~~ required to have an athletic trainer, or similarly
16 trained person, at all recreational and athletic events addressed by this statute.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION ACT

1 This act would require all school districts to have an athletic trainer, or similarly trained
2 person, at all recreational and athletic events of the school district.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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