



March 25, 2015

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Creates the “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act” for the purpose of informing and educating coaches, school administrators, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature, risk, and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Requires the governing authority of each public and nonpublic middle, junior, and high school to, through guidance provided by the Department of Health (DOH), adopt guidelines and forms to inform and educate coaches, school administrators, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature, risk, and symptoms of SCA, including the risk of continuing to play or practice upon experiencing specific symptoms related to SCA. Requires any athlete, coach, parent, guardian, athletic director and as applicable, a licensed health care professional or lead administrator to sign a SCA information sheet. DOH must maintain all signed SCA information sheets and documentation related to completion of an SCA education course for a period of three years. Establishes a policy requiring the removal of any youth athlete, who passes out or faints while participating in a youth activity, or displays related symptoms of SCA and further prohibits such athlete from returning to the athletic activity until the athlete is evaluated by a health care provider and receives written clearance from such provider to return to the athletic activity. A licensed health care professional, as available, may monitor the athlete’s return to an athletic activity and must provide updates to the appropriate health care provider on the progress of the athlete. No licensed health care professional, acting in good faith, shall be liable for any act or omission while engaged in the monitoring of such athlete.

The respective local education agency (LEA), in consultation with the head of a school youth athletic activity, is authorized to establish the following activities for a coach who ignores an athlete’s SCA symptoms or allows an athlete to return to practice or competition without written clearance from a health care provider:

- For a first violation, the coach shall be suspended from coaching any community-based youth athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
- For a second violation, the coach shall be suspended from coaching any community-based youth activity for the remainder of the season and next season.
- For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any community-based youth athletic activity.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (002328, 004527): Adds “dizziness” to the SCA symptoms an athlete experiences which will require immediate removal from participating in an athletic activity. Establishes that any SCA symptoms experienced “immediately following an athletic activity” by an athlete will require evaluation and clearance from a health care provider prior to such athlete returning to any supervised team activities involving physical exertion. Changes the effective date of this bill, from July 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Unchanged from the original bill.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- DOH will develop an educational program, utilizing existing material from other states and likely convening a group of internal and external stakeholders to review such existing material to effectuate the purposes of this legislation. DOH reports that such materials will satisfy much of the requirements provided in this legislation, and that such resources can be provided on its website for free access by schools.
- Based on information provided by DOH, it assumes that it can carry out the requirements of this legislation at no additional cost and within its daily workload and resources.
- The Department of Education will communicate the provisions of the bill to the LEAs at no additional cost. The LEAs can establish policies that provide effective discipline to coaches who are found in violation of this act.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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