

HB45 INTRODUCED



1 TBNP55-1
2 By Representative Gray
3 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23
5 PFD: 23-Feb-23



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, local boards of education and sports organizations are not required to adhere to any protocol if a student athlete exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

This bill would create the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act and would require the State Board of Education to adopt certain guidelines to inform and educate student athletes, parents, and coaches about the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

This bill would require each student athlete and his or her parent or guardian to provide written acknowledgment of receipt of information about sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in any athletic activity.

This bill would require a student who passes out, faints, or exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest to be pulled from the athletic activity, and would prohibit the student from returning to the athletic activity until an appropriate medical professional provides written clearance for his or her return.

This bill would require each coach of an athletic activity to receive annual training relating to sudden cardiac arrest, and would provide that a



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29 coach may be suspended if he or she does not complete
30 the necessary training, or if he or she fails to pull a
31 student from an athletic activity for fainting or
32 exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

33 This bill would protect a coach from liability
34 related to a student who exhibits symptoms of sudden
35 cardiac arrest, unless the coach is reckless or grossly
36 negligent.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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43 Relating to public K-12 sports; to create the Sudden
44 Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act; to require the State Board of
45 Education to adopt certain guidelines and information sheets
46 regarding sudden cardiac arrest and distribute those
47 information sheets to students, parents, and coaches; to
48 require coaches to undergo certain training related to sudden
49 cardiac arrest and to remove students who exhibit symptoms of
50 sudden cardiac arrest from play; to require students and
51 parents to acknowledge consent of certain informational
52 materials related to sudden cardiac arrest; to establish
53 certain penalties for coaches and to protect a coach from
54 certain liability related to sudden cardiac arrest.

55 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

56 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as



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57 the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.

58 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
59 terms have the following meanings:

60 (1) ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.

61 a. This term includes any of the following activities:

62 1. Interscholastic athletics at any school.

63 2. Any athletic contest or competition other than
64 interscholastic athletics that is sponsored by or associated
65 with a school entity, including club-sponsored sports
66 activities.

67 3. Competitive or noncompetitive cheerleading that is
68 sponsored or associated with a school.

69 4. Any practices, including interschool practices, or
70 scrimmages for any activities listed in this subdivision.

71 b. This term does not include any recreational sports
72 activity that is not associated with a school, including a
73 city or county recreational youth sports league.

74 (2) THE BOARD. The State Board of Education.

75 (3) SCHOOL. Any public K-12 school.

76 Section 3. (a) The board shall adopt guidelines to
77 inform and educate students, parents, and coaches about the
78 nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including
79 the risks associated with continuing to participate or
80 practice in an athletic activity after experiencing any of the
81 following symptoms:

82 (1) Fainting or seizures during exercise.

83 (2) Unexplained shortness of breath.

84 (3) Chest pains.



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85 (4) Dizziness.

86 (5) A racing heart rate.

87 (6) Extreme fatigue.

88 (b) The board shall develop a cardiac arrest symptoms
89 and warning signs information sheet to be provided to each
90 student participating in an athletic activity. Beginning with
91 the 2025-2026 school year, before any student may participate
92 in any athletic activity, the student and his or her parent or
93 guardian shall sign and return to the student's school a form
94 acknowledging their receipt and review of the information
95 sheet. A new acknowledgment form shall be signed and returned
96 to the school for each school year that the student
97 participates in an athletic activity.

98 (c) In developing guidelines and materials, the board
99 may use educational materials created by Simon's Fund for the
100 purpose of educating students, parents, and coaches about
101 sudden cardiac arrest.

102 (d) The department shall post any guidelines or
103 materials developed pursuant to this act on its publicly
104 accessible website.

105 Section 4. Each local board of education may hold an
106 informational meeting for students, parents, coaches, and
107 other school officials prior to the start of each athletic
108 season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden
109 cardiac arrest. Informational meetings may include, but are
110 not limited to, presentations from physicians, pediatric
111 cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

112 Section 5. (a) Any student who passes out or faints



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113 while participating in, or immediately after participating in,
114 any athletic activity shall be removed from participation by
115 the athletic director, coach, or athletic trainer.

116 (b) An athletic trainer may remove any student who
117 exhibits any symptoms provided in Section 3 during any
118 athletic activity if the athletic trainer reasonably believes
119 that the student's symptoms are cardiac related. In the
120 absence of an athletic trainer, any athletic director or coach
121 who observes a student exhibit any symptoms provided in
122 Section 3 shall notify the parent or guardian of the symptoms
123 and allow the parent or guardian to determine what treatment,
124 if any, the student should seek.

125 (c) (1) A student who is removed from participation in
126 an athletic activity pursuant to this section may not be
127 permitted to return to play until he or she has been evaluated
128 by an appropriate medical professional and receives written
129 clearance to return to play from the appropriate medical
130 professional.

131 (2) The board shall adopt rules determining who is an
132 appropriate medical professional for the purposes of this
133 section.

134 Section 6. (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school
135 year, once every school year, each coach of any athletic
136 activity shall complete a cardiac arrest training course
137 approved by the board, which may include the course produced
138 by Simon's Heart and made available through the National
139 Association of State High School Associations, if the board so
140 chooses.



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141 (b) A coach of any athletic activity may not be
142 eligible to coach until he or she has completed the training
143 course required under this section.

144 Section 7. (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school
145 year, each local board of education shall establish the
146 following minimum penalties for a coach who fails to follow
147 procedures established in Section 5 or complete training as
148 required in Section 6:

149 (1) For a first violation, suspension from coaching any
150 athletic activity for the remainder of that athletic
151 activity's season.

152 (2) For a second violation, suspension from coaching
153 any athletic activity for the remainder of that season and the
154 following season.

155 (3) For a third violation, permanent suspension from
156 coaching any athletic activity.

157 (b) No coach shall be subject to any civil liability
158 for his or her actions or omissions under this act unless he
159 or she has acted in a grossly negligent or reckless manner.

160 Section 8. The sponsors of recreational youth athletic
161 activities are encouraged, but not required, to follow the
162 guidelines provided in this act.

163 Section 9. This act shall become effective on the first
164 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
165 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.