

**House Children and Senior Advocacy Engrossed  
Substitute for HB45**



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to K-12 school sports; to create the Tyrell Spencer Act; to require coaches to undergo training and follow all health and safety guidelines related to sudden cardiac arrest; to require the training to be coordinated with existing training requirements related to CPR and automated external defibrillators (AEDs); to require the State Board of Education to approve training requirements and adopt guidelines and information sheets regarding sudden cardiac arrest and distribute those information sheets to student athletes, parents, and coaches; to authorize the Alabama High School Athletic Association and the Alabama Independent School Association to provide the training; to allow for the removal from play of student athletes who exhibit symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest; to require student athletes and parents to acknowledge receipt of informational materials related to sudden cardiac arrest; and to encourage AED availability.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Tyrell Spencer Act.

Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following



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29 terms have the following meanings:

30 (1) AHSAA. The Alabama High School Athletic  
31 Association.

32 (2) AISA. The Alabama Independent School Association.

33 (3) ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.

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

35 1. Interscholastic athletics at any school.

36 2. Any athletic contest or competition other than  
37 interscholastic athletics that is sponsored by or associated  
38 with a school, including club-sponsored sports activities.

39 3. Competitive or noncompetitive cheerleading that is  
40 sponsored by or associated with a school.

41 4. Any practices, including interscholastic practices  
42 or scrimmages for any activities listed in this subdivision.

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

46 (4) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

47 (5) SCHOOL. Any public or private K-12 school.

48 (6) STUDENT ATHLETE. A student who is enrolled in a  
49 K-12 school and participates in any athletic activity.

50 Section 3. (a) The board shall adopt guidelines to  
51 inform and educate student athletes, parents, and coaches  
52 about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest,  
53 including the risks associated with continuing to participate  
54 in or practice an athletic activity after experiencing  
55 symptoms, as outlined by the required training.

56 (b) The board shall develop a cardiac arrest symptoms



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57 and warning signs information sheet to be provided to each  
58 student athlete participating in an athletic activity.  
59 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, before any student  
60 athlete may participate in any athletic activity, the student  
61 athlete and his or her parent or guardian shall sign and  
62 return to the student athlete's school an acknowledgement form  
63 acknowledging their receipt and review of the information  
64 sheet. The acknowledgment form shall be developed by the AHSAA  
65 for its member schools and the AISA for its member schools. As  
66 part of the student athlete's eligibility requirements, a new  
67 acknowledgment form shall be signed and returned to the  
68 applicable school at the beginning of each school year in  
69 which the student athlete intends to participate in an  
70 athletic activity. Each acknowledgment form shall be kept in  
71 the school's online eligibility software program.

72 (c) In developing guidelines and materials, the board  
73 may use educational materials created by Simon's Heart for the  
74 purpose of educating student athletes, parents, and coaches  
75 about sudden cardiac arrest.

76 (d) The board, the AHSAA, and the AISA shall post any  
77 guidelines or materials developed pursuant to this act on the  
78 publicly accessible website of the entity.

79 Section 4. Each local board of education may hold an  
80 informational meeting for student athletes, parents, coaches,  
81 and other school officials prior to the start of each athletic  
82 season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden  
83 cardiac arrest. Informational meetings may include, but are  
84 not limited to, presentations from physicians, pediatric



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85 cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

86 Section 5. (a) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school  
87 year, once every two years, each coach of any athletic  
88 activity shall complete a cardiac arrest training course  
89 provided by the AHSAA for its member schools and by the AISA  
90 for its member schools. The training shall be approved by the  
91 board, and, if the board chooses, may include the course  
92 produced by Simon's Heart and made available through the  
93 National Federation of State High School Associations.

94 (2) The training shall be in correlation with any other  
95 training required by the relevant school association related  
96 to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external  
97 defibrillators (AEDs).

98 (b) A coach of any athletic activity may not be  
99 eligible to coach in any practice or competition until he or  
100 she has completed the training course required under this  
101 section.

102 Section 6. (a) An athletic trainer, coach, or other  
103 responsible party may remove any student athlete who, during  
104 any athletic activity, exhibits any symptoms identifiable by  
105 the required training if the trainer, coach, or other  
106 responsible party reasonably believes that the student  
107 athlete's symptoms are cardiac related. If a student athlete  
108 is removed from an athletic activity for the reason described  
109 in this subsection, an athletic trainer, coach, or other  
110 responsible party who observed the student athlete exhibit the  
111 symptoms shall attempt to notify the student athlete's parent  
112 or guardian of those symptoms.



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113 (b) A student athlete who is removed from participation  
114 in an athletic activity pursuant to this section may not be  
115 permitted to return to play until he or she has been evaluated  
116 by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to  
117 return to play from the licensed physician.

118 Section 7. The sponsors of recreational youth athletic  
119 activities are encouraged, but not required, to follow the  
120 guidelines provided in this act.

121 Section 8. The Legislature encourages the availability  
122 of an automated external defibrillator (AED) within three  
123 minutes retrieval time at any athletic activity.

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