

HB45 ENROLLED



1 TBNP55-3
2 By Representative Gray
3 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23
5 PFD: 23-Feb-23
6 2023 Regular Session



1 Enrolled, An Act,

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

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

23 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
24 terms have the following meanings:

25 (1) AHSSAA. The Alabama High School Athletic
26 Association.

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

28 (3) ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.



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

30 1. Interscholastic athletics at any school.

31 2. Any athletic contest or competition other than

32 interscholastic athletics that is sponsored by or associated
33 with a school, including club-sponsored sports activities.

34 3. Competitive or noncompetitive cheerleading that is
35 sponsored by or associated with a school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 (b) The board shall develop a cardiac arrest symptoms
52 and warning signs information sheet to be provided to each
53 student athlete participating in an athletic activity.

54 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, before any student
55 athlete may participate in any athletic activity, the student
56 athlete and his or her parent or guardian shall sign and



57 return to the student athlete's school an acknowledgement form
58 acknowledging their receipt and review of the information
59 sheet. The acknowledgment form shall be developed by the AHSAA
60 for its member schools and the AISA for its member schools. As
61 part of the student athlete's eligibility requirements, a new
62 acknowledgment form shall be signed and returned to the
63 applicable school at the beginning of each school year in
64 which the student athlete intends to participate in an
65 athletic activity. Each acknowledgment form shall be kept in
66 the school's online eligibility software program.

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

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

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

81 Section 5. (a) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school
82 year, once every two years, each coach of any athletic
83 activity shall complete a cardiac arrest training course
84 provided by the AHSAA for its member schools and by the AISA



85 for its member schools. The training shall be approved by the
86 board, and, if the board chooses, may include the course
87 produced by Simon's Heart and made available through the
88 National Federation of State High School Associations.

89 (2) The training shall be in correlation with any other
90 training required by the relevant school association related
91 to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external
92 defibrillators (AEDs).

93 (b) A coach of any athletic activity may not be
94 eligible to coach in any practice or competition until he or
95 she has completed the training course required under this
96 section.

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

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



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

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

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

HB45 Enrolled



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125 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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130 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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133 House of Representatives

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135 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and
136 was passed by the House 20-Apr-23 as amended.

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138 John Treadwell
139 Clerk

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147 Senate 11-May-23 Passed