

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILLNo. **836** Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, YAW, PITTMAN,
COLLETT, KILLION, TARTAGLIONE, FOLMER, BREWSTER, YUDICHAK,
BARTOLOTTA AND L. WILLIAMS, AUGUST 26, 2019

SENATOR LANGERHOLC, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 21, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 30, 2012 (P.L.574, No.59), entitled "An
2 act establishing standards for preventing sudden cardiac
3 arrest and death in student athletes; assigning duties to the
4 Department of Health and the Department of Education; and
5 imposing penalties," further providing for sudden cardiac
6 arrest.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 3 heading, (a) and (b) of the act of May
10 30, 2012 (P.L.574, No.59), known as the Sudden Cardiac Arrest
11 Prevention Act, are amended to read:

12 Section 3. Sudden cardiac arrest and electrocardiogram testing.

13 (a) Educational materials.--

14 (1) The department and the Department of Education shall
15 develop and post on their publicly accessible Internet
16 websites guidelines and other relevant materials to inform
17 and educate students participating in or desiring to
18 participate in an athletic activity, their parents and their
19 coaches about [the]:

1 (i) The nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac
2 arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to
3 play or practice after experiencing one or more symptoms
4 of sudden cardiac arrest, including fainting, difficulty
5 breathing, chest pains, dizziness and abnormal racing
6 heart rate.

7 (ii) Information about electrocardiogram testing.

8 (iii) The option to request, FROM THE FAMILY'S <--
9 MEDICAL PROVIDER, the administration of an
10 electrocardiogram, in addition to the comprehensive
11 initial preparticipation physical examination, AT A COST <--
12 TO BE INCURRED BY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

13 (2) In developing the guidelines and materials, the
14 department and the Department of Education may utilize
15 existing materials developed by organizations such as Parent
16 Heart Watch and Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes.

17 (3) A student participating in or desiring to
18 participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent
19 or guardian shall, each school year and prior to
20 participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign
21 and return to the student's school an acknowledgment of
22 receipt and review of a sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and
23 warning signs information sheet that includes information
24 about electrocardiogram testing developed under this
25 subsection.

26 (b) Informational meeting.--A school entity may hold an
27 informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season
28 for all ages of competitors regarding the symptoms and warning
29 signs of sudden cardiac arrest and information about
30 electrocardiogram testing. In addition to students, parents,

1 coaches and other school officials, informational meetings may
2 include physicians, pediatric cardiologists and athletic
3 trainers.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.