

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 836 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, YAW, PITTMAN,
COLLETT, KILLION, TARTAGLIONE AND FOLMER, AUGUST 26, 2019

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, AUGUST 26, 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]:

20 (i) The nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac

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

6 (ii) Information about electrocardiogram testing.

7 (iii) The option to request the administration of an
8 electrocardiogram, in addition to the comprehensive
9 initial preparticipation physical examination.

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

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

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

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