

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 521

PRINTER NO. 1040

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 29, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Killion

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 521 amends the Public School Code by adding Sections 1528 (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and 1529 (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Schools) to enhance the current academic standards for instruction of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for students in grades nine through 12 and to include hands-on instruction.

This legislation provides that the Department of Education and the State Board of Education work in consultation with the American Heart Association and American Red Cross to enhance the existing academic standards for CPR instruction no later than twenty-four (24) months after the effective date of the legislation. In addition, the legislation requires the Department to provide the enhanced academic standards and other materials developed to nonpublic schools upon request.

Senate Bill 521 requires the academic standards to include the following: (1) an instructional program developed by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross or another program that is nationally recognized and based on the most current guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiovascular care; (2) the psychomotor skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and (3) information on the purpose of an automated external defibrillator. In addition, the legislation defines "psychomotor skills" as the use of hands-on practice to support cognitive learning.

The legislation provides that CPR instruction may be integrated into an appropriate course of study, and a teacher, instructor or community volunteer may provide, facilitate or oversee the instruction. These individuals are not required to be a certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation trainer. If a student is unable to perform the psychomotor skill portion of the instruction, or upon written request of the student's parent, the student shall be excused from participating in the instruction.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

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The enactment of Senate Bill 521 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Model curriculum for CPR instruction has already been developed by the American Heart Association and American Red Cross, which the Department of Education should be able to utilize to develop the new academic standards.

Currently, there is a requirement in the Public School Code under Section 1205.4 (CPR Instruction) that school entities offer a CPR training class on school premises every 3 years. However, at present, the law does not require hands-on CPR instruction for all students in grades nine through 12. While many school entities offer hands-on instruction as part of their normal curriculum, some offer it as an elective course, and others offer it as an after school program.

For school entities that do not provide hands-on CPR instruction as a regular part of their curriculum, there may be costs to purchase the equipment and materials necessary to provide CPR instruction. Kits to provide hands-on CPR instruction in a classroom, which include mannequins and other materials, are commercially available. The American Heart Association provides a "classroom kit" at a cost of \$649 dollars per kit.