

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 836

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE SONNEY

Printer's No. 1265

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 1 through 6, by striking out all of
2 said lines and inserting

3 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
4 act relating to the public school system, including certain
5 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
6 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
7 laws relating thereto," in school health services, providing
8 for sudden cardiac arrest and electrocardiogram testing.

9 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 9 through 19; page 2, lines 1
10 through 30; page 3, lines 1 through 5; by striking out all of
11 said lines on said pages and inserting

12 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
13 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
14 section to read:

15 Section 1425. Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Electrocardiogram
16 Testing.--(a) (1) The department and the Department of
17 Education shall develop and post on their publicly accessible
18 Internet websites guidelines and other relevant materials to
19 inform and educate students participating in or desiring to
20 participate in an athletic activity, their parents and their
21 coaches about:

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

27 (ii) Information about electrocardiogram testing, including
28 the potential risks, benefits and evidentiary basis behind
29 electrocardiogram testing.

30 (iii) The option to request, from the family's medical
31 provider, the administration of an electrocardiogram, in
32 addition to the comprehensive initial participation physical
33 examination, at a cost to be incurred by the parent or guardian.

34 (2) In developing the guidelines and materials, the
35 department and the Department of Education shall consult with a

1 nationally accredited cardiology association and may utilize
2 existing materials developed by organizations such as Parent
3 Heart Watch, Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation and
4 the American College of Cardiology.

5 (3) A student participating in or desiring to participate in
6 an athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall,
7 each school year and prior to participation by the student in an
8 athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school an
9 acknowledgment of receipt and review of a sudden cardiac arrest
10 symptoms and warning signs information sheet that includes
11 information about electrocardiogram testing developed under this
12 subsection.

13 (b) A school entity may hold an informational meeting prior
14 to the start of each athletic season for all ages of competitors
15 regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac
16 arrest and information about electrocardiogram testing developed
17 under this subsection. In addition to students, parents, coaches
18 and other school officials, informational meetings may include
19 physicians, pediatric and adult cardiologists and athletic
20 trainers.

21 (c) (1) A student who, as determined by a game official,
22 coach from the student's team, certified athletic trainer,
23 licensed physician or other official designated by the student's
24 school entity, exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac
25 arrest while participating in an athletic activity shall be
26 removed by the coach from participation at that time, subject to
27 clause (3).

28 (2) If a student is known to have exhibited signs or
29 symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or
30 following an athletic activity, the student shall be prevented
31 from participating in an athletic activity, subject to clause
32 (3).

33 (3) A student removed or prevented from participating in an
34 athletic activity under clause (1) or (2) shall not return to
35 participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for
36 return to participation in writing by a licensed physician,
37 certified registered nurse practitioner or cardiologist.

38 (4) In order to help determine whether a student is ready to
39 return to play, the licensed physician or certified registered
40 nurse practitioner may consult any other licensed or certified
41 medical professionals.

42 (d) (1) Once each school year, a coach of an athletic
43 activity shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training
44 course offered by a provider approved by the department.

45 (2) A coach of an athletic activity shall not coach the
46 athletic activity until the coach completes the training course
47 required under this subsection.

48 (e) The governing body of a school entity shall establish
49 the following minimum penalties for a coach found in violation
50 of the requirements under subsection (c), which penalties shall
51 take effect two (2) years following the effective date of this

1 section:

2 (1) For a first violation, suspension from coaching any
3 athletic activity for the remainder of the season.

4 (2) For a second violation, suspension from coaching any
5 athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the
6 next season.

7 (3) For a third violation, permanent suspension from
8 coaching any athletic activity.

9 (f) The sponsors of youth athletic activities not associated
10 with a school entity are encouraged to follow the guidance
11 stated in this section.

12 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

13 (1) abridge or limit any rights provided under a collective
14 bargaining agreement in effect on the effective date of this
15 section or any rights provided under the act of July 23, 1970
16 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the "Public Employe Relations Act";
17 or

18 (2) create, establish, expand, reduce, contract or eliminate
19 any civil liability on the part of any school entity or school
20 employee.

21 (h) As used in this section--

22 "Athletic activity" means all of the following:

23 (1) Interscholastic athletics.

24 (2) An athletic contest or competition, other than
25 interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated
26 with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored
27 sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-
28 affiliated organizations.

29 (3) Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or
30 associated with a school entity.

31 (4) Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all
32 of the activities listed under clauses (1), (2) and (3).

33 "Department" means the Department of Health of the
34 Commonwealth.

35 "Interscholastic athletics" means as defined in section 1602-
36 A.

37 "School entity" means as defined in section 1602-A.

38 Section 2. Repeals are as follows:

39 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
40 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the addition of
41 section 1425 of the act.

42 (2) The act of May 30, 2012 (P.L.574, No.59), known as
43 the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, is repealed.

44 Section 3. The addition of section 1425 of the act is a
45 continuation of the act of May 30, 2012 (P.L.574, No.59), known
46 as the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act. Except as otherwise
47 provided in section 1425, all activities initiated under the
48 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act shall continue and remain
49 in full force and effect and may be completed under section 1425
50 of this act. Orders, regulations, rules and decisions which were
51 made under the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act and which

1 are in effect on the effective date of section 2(2) of this act
2 shall remain in full force and effect until revoked, vacated or
3 modified under section 1425 of this act. Contracts, obligations
4 and collective bargaining agreements entered into under the
5 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act are not affected nor
6 impaired by the repeal of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention
7 Act.

8 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.