
SENATE BILL 5083

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Litzow, Rolfes, McCoy, Billig, Darneille, Kohl-Welles, Frockt, and Fraser

Read first time 01/13/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the awareness of sudden cardiac arrest for
2 students engaged in athletic activity; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and
4 creating new sections.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that sudden cardiac
7 death is the result of an unexpected failure of proper heart function
8 that may occur during or immediately after exercise. The legislature
9 further finds that it has been reported that cardiac arrest is the
10 leading cause of death in young athletes. The legislature finds that
11 approximately one in two hundred fifty young athletes has a heart
12 disorder that may increase his or her risk of sudden cardiac arrest.
13 The legislature intends to make students engaged in athletic
14 activity, their families, and coaches aware of sudden cardiac arrest.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.345
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The Washington state school directors' association, in
18 collaboration with a nonprofit organization that educates communities
19 about sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes and the University of
20 Washington center for sports cardiology, shall develop and make

1 available an online pamphlet that provides students engaged in
2 athletic activity, their parents or guardians, and coaches with
3 information about sudden cardiac arrest. The online pamphlet must
4 include information on the nature, risk, symptoms and warning signs,
5 prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. The online
6 pamphlet shall be posted on the office of the superintendent of
7 public instruction's web site.

8 (2) The Washington state school directors' association, in
9 collaboration with an organization that provides educational training
10 for safe participation in athletic activity, shall make available an
11 existing online sudden cardiac arrest prevention program for coaches.

12 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
13 section.

14 (a) "Athletic activity" means interscholastic sports; an athletic
15 contest or competition, other than interscholastic sports, that is
16 sponsored by or associated with a public school district, including
17 cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice
18 or interschool practice or scrimmage for those sports or activities.

19 (b) "Coaches" means any persons responsible for the supervision
20 of students engaged in athletic activity, including volunteers and
21 full-time and part-time employees of a school district.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) School districts shall disseminate information on how to
25 access the online pamphlet described in section 2 of this act to
26 students who will be engaged in athletic activity, their parents or
27 guardians, and coaches who supervise these students.

28 (2) School districts shall hold an informational meeting at the
29 beginning of each school year that reviews the nature, risk, symptoms
30 and warning signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac
31 arrest. Students engaged in an athletic activity, their parents or
32 guardians, coaches, athletic trainers, school and team physicians,
33 school nurses, and other school officials may attend the meeting.
34 School districts may collaborate with nonprofit organizations that
35 educate communities about sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes to
36 hold the informational meeting.

37 (3) Beginning in the 2015-16 school year and in each school year
38 thereafter, school districts shall have students who will be engaged
39 in an athletic activity and their parents or guardians sign a form

1 that states they reviewed the online pamphlet described in section 2
2 of this act. The forms shall be returned to the school district
3 before students engage in any athletic activity each school year.

4 (4) Beginning in the 2015-16 school year and in each school year
5 thereafter, school districts shall require coaches to complete the
6 online sudden cardiac arrest prevention program described in section
7 2 of this act before the start of the first athletic activity that
8 the person is scheduled to coach. Coaches shall provide a certificate
9 showing completion of the online sudden cardiac arrest prevention
10 program to the school district every four years.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
12 sudden cardiac arrest awareness act.

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