

House Bill 874

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Erwin of the 32nd, Jones of the 47th, Greene of the 154th, Cooper of the 45th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to health, so as to require automated external defibrillators in all schools;
3 to provide for definitions; to provide for the establishment of emergency action plans to
4 address a person in cardiac arrest; to provide for internal response teams; to provide for
5 practice drills; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to health, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-775, relating to automated
11 external defibrillators required in high schools, requirements, and funding, as follows:

12 "20-2-775.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Automated ~~'automated~~ external defibrillator' means a defibrillator which:

15 (H)(A) Is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis;

16 ~~(2)(B)~~ Will charge and be capable of being activated to deliver a countershock after
17 electrically detecting the presence of certain cardiac dysrhythmias; and

18 ~~(3)(C)~~ Is capable of continuously recording cardiac dysrhythmia at the scene with a
19 mechanism for transfer and storage or for printing for review subsequent to use.

20 (2) 'Emergency action plan' means the plan established pursuant to paragraph (5) of
21 subsection (c) of this Code section to provide for an emergency response to a person in
22 cardiac arrest.

23 (3) 'Internal response team' means the team of school personnel established pursuant to
24 paragraph (7) of subsection (c) of this Code section responsible for oversight of an
25 emergency response to a person in cardiac arrest and implementation of the emergency
26 action plan.

27 (4) 'School' means a public school in this state which provides K-12 education.

28 (b) No later than July 1, ~~2008~~ 2025, each ~~public high~~ school in this state ~~which has an~~
29 ~~interscholastic athletics program~~ shall have at least one functional automated external
30 defibrillator on site at such school at all times and easily accessible during all school hours
31 and during any school related function, including athletic practices, athletic competitions,
32 and other occasions where students and others will be present, for use during emergencies.

33 (c) Each ~~high school possessing and maintaining an automated external defibrillator~~ shall:

34 (1) Ensure that each member of the internal response team and any other expected users
35 of the automated external defibrillator receive American Heart Association or American
36 Red Cross training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator
37 use or complete an equivalent nationally recognized course;

38 (2) Notify the appropriate emergency medical services system of the existence and
39 location of ~~the~~ each automated external defibrillator prior to said automated external
40 defibrillator being placed in use;

41 (3) Ensure that the automated external defibrillator is maintained and tested according
42 to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;

43 (4) Ensure that there is involvement of a licensed physician or other person authorized
44 by the Georgia Composite Medical Board in the site's automated external defibrillator
45 program to ensure compliance with requirements for training, notification, and
46 maintenance; ~~and~~

47 (5) Establish a written emergency action plan that establishes specific steps to take during
48 a cardiac emergency in a school setting. Such plan shall be designed to provide for an
49 effective system for communication between members of the internal response team and
50 other school officials, ensuring ~~Ensure that~~ the internal response team or other designated
51 personnel activate the emergency medical services system as soon as reasonably possible
52 after any person renders emergency care or treatment to a person in cardiac arrest by
53 using an automated external defibrillator and ~~reports~~ report any clinical use of the
54 automated external defibrillator to the licensed physician or other person authorized by
55 the Georgia Composite Medical Board who is supervising the program; ~~and ensuring that~~
56 emergency medical services personnel are led directly to the exact location of the person
57 in cardiac arrest;

58 (6) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter, conduct a
59 minimum of two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, with at least one
60 per semester. One such practice drill may be a tabletop drill to walk through a
61 hypothetical scenario and the courses of action a school will need to take before, during,
62 and after a cardiac emergency. The emergency action plan practice drills shall include
63 various locations on school grounds and responses to different hypothetical situations;

64 (7) Establish a designated internal response team composed of:

65 (A) At least five school staff members;

66 (B) One or more designated team leads trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
67 automated external defibrillator use and responsible for oversight of an emergency
68 response;

- 69 (C) One or more designated cardiopulmonary resuscitation leads trained in
70 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use;
71 (D) One or more designated automated external defibrillator leads, responsible for
72 knowing the location of automated external defibrillators, retrieving automated external
73 defibrillators, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators; and
74 (E) One or more designated communication leads responsible for activating the
75 emergency medical services system, facilitating directions to the person in cardiac
76 arrest for emergency medical services personnel upon arrival at the school, and
77 coordinating communications with the designated team lead or leads; and
78 (8) Apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators and
79 the members of the internal response team.
- 80 (d) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the Department of Education shall
81 provide funds to local school systems to assist in the purchase of automated external
82 defibrillators pursuant to this Code section.
- 83 (e) The department and local school systems shall use diligent efforts to identify private
84 sources of funding or donation of funding and equipment to meet the requirements of this
85 Code section."

86 **SECTION 2.**

87 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.