

House Bill 629

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Cooper of the 45th, Newton of the 127th, Greene of the 154th, and Mathiak of the 82nd

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 remove the requirement of having a licensed physician
3 in automated external defibrillator programs; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

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

12 (1) 'Automated external defibrillator' means a defibrillator which:

13 (A) Is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis;

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (c) Each school shall:

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

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

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

41 ~~(4) Ensure that there is involvement of a licensed physician or other person authorized~~
42 ~~by the Georgia Composite Medical Board in the site's automated external defibrillator~~

43 ~~program to ensure compliance with requirements for training, notification, and~~
44 ~~maintenance;~~

45 ~~(5)~~(4) Establish a written emergency action plan that adheres to nationally recognized
46 standards and that establishes specific steps to take during a cardiac emergency in a
47 school setting. Such plan shall be designed to provide for an effective system for
48 communication between members of the internal response team and other school
49 officials, ensuring that the internal response team or other designated personnel activate
50 the emergency medical services system as soon as reasonably possible after any person
51 renders emergency care or treatment to a person in cardiac arrest by using an automated
52 external defibrillator and report any clinical use of the automated external defibrillator
53 to the licensed physician or other person authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical
54 Board who is supervising the program, and ensuring that emergency medical services
55 personnel are led directly to the exact location of the person in cardiac arrest;

56 ~~(6)~~(5) Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter, conduct
57 a minimum of two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, with at least one
58 per semester. One such practice drill may be a tabletop drill to walk through a
59 hypothetical scenario and the courses of action a school will need to take before, during,
60 and after a cardiac emergency. The emergency action plan practice drills shall include
61 various locations on school grounds and responses to different hypothetical situations;

62 ~~(7)~~(6) Establish a designated internal response team composed of:

63 (A) At least five school staff members;

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

67 (C) One or more designated cardiopulmonary resuscitation leads trained in
68 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use;

69 (D) One or more designated automated external defibrillator leads, responsible for
70 knowing the location of automated external defibrillators, retrieving automated external
71 defibrillators, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators; and

72 (E) One or more designated communication leads responsible for activating the
73 emergency medical services system, facilitating directions to the person in cardiac
74 arrest for emergency medical services personnel upon arrival at the school, and
75 coordinating communications with the designated team lead or leads; and

76 ~~(8)~~(7) Apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators
77 and the members of the internal response team.

78 (d) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the Department of Education shall
79 provide funds to local school systems to assist in the purchase of automated external
80 defibrillators pursuant to this Code section.

81 (e) The department and local school systems shall use diligent efforts to identify private
82 sources of funding or donation of funding and equipment to meet the requirements of this
83 Code section."

84 **SECTION 2.**

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