

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to SB 148:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for an outdoor learning spaces pilot
3 program; to provide for a pilot program evaluation and report; to remove the requirement of
4 having a licensed physician in automated external defibrillator programs; to increase from
5 three to five the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel
6 may take each school year for personal or professional reasons; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
11 secondary education, is amended in Article 11, relating to public school property and
12 facilities, by adding a new part to read as follows:

13 "Part 4

14 20-2-590.

15 (a) The Department of Education is authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in
16 the 2025-2026 school year, to provide for the development and study of outdoor learning
17 spaces on elementary and secondary school property. The purpose of the pilot program
18 shall be to determine whether and how to implement best practices and design standards
19 for outdoor learning spaces.

20 (b) The Department of Education is authorized to select elementary or secondary schools
21 with sufficient existing or potential outdoor learning spaces for participation in the pilot
22 program as pilot schools. Private, nonprofit, and local school system funding may be
23 utilized by such pilot schools for community engagement, school grounds design support,
24 and capital construction costs. The local board of education for each pilot school shall
25 agree to implement a program to incorporate outdoor learning spaces into the existing
26 curriculum and to continue to provide such program for a period no shorter than three
27 years.

28 (c) The Department of Education shall provide for an evaluation regarding the success and
29 impact of the pilot program upon completion of the third year of the pilot program and
30 shall report the results of such evaluation to the House Committee on Education and the
31 Senate Education and Youth Committee."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-775, relating to automated
34 external defibrillators required in high schools, requirements, and funding, as follows:

35 "20-2-775.

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

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

- 38 (A) Is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis;
- 39 (B) Will charge and be capable of being activated to deliver a countershock after
40 electrically detecting the presence of certain cardiac dysrhythmias; and
- 41 (C) Is capable of continuously recording cardiac dysrhythmia at the scene with a
42 mechanism for transfer and storage or for printing for review subsequent to use.
- 43 (2) 'Emergency action plan' means the plan established pursuant to paragraph (5) of
44 subsection (c) of this Code section to provide for an emergency response to a person in
45 cardiac arrest.
- 46 (3) 'Internal response team' means the team of school personnel established pursuant to
47 paragraph ~~(7)~~(6) of subsection (c) of this Code section responsible for oversight of an
48 emergency response to a person in cardiac arrest and implementation of the emergency
49 action plan.
- 50 (4) 'School' means a public school in this state which provides K-12 education.
- 51 (b) No later than July 1, 2025, each school in this state shall have at least one functional
52 automated external defibrillator on site at such school at all times and easily accessible
53 during all school hours and during any school related function, including athletic practices,
54 athletic competitions, and other occasions where students and others will be present, for
55 use during emergencies.
- 56 (c) Each school shall:
- 57 (1) Ensure that each member of the internal response team and any other expected users
58 of the automated external defibrillator receive American Heart Association or American
59 Red Cross training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator
60 use or complete an equivalent nationally recognized course;
- 61 (2) Notify the appropriate emergency medical services system of the existence and
62 location of each automated external defibrillator prior to said automated external
63 defibrillator being placed in use;

- 64 (3) Ensure that the automated external defibrillator is maintained and tested according
65 to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;
- 66 ~~(4) Ensure that there is involvement of a licensed physician or other person authorized~~
67 ~~by the Georgia Composite Medical Board in the site's automated external defibrillator~~
68 ~~program to ensure compliance with requirements for training, notification, and~~
69 ~~maintenance;~~
- 70 ~~(5)~~(4) Establish a written emergency action plan that adheres to nationally recognized
71 standards and that establishes specific steps to take during a cardiac emergency in a
72 school setting. Such plan shall be designed to provide for an effective system for
73 communication between members of the internal response team and other school
74 officials, ensuring that the internal response team or other designated personnel activate
75 the emergency medical services system as soon as reasonably possible after any person
76 renders emergency care or treatment to a person in cardiac arrest by using an automated
77 external defibrillator and ~~report any clinical use of the automated external defibrillator~~
78 ~~to the licensed physician or other person authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical~~
79 ~~Board who is supervising the program, and ensuring that emergency medical services~~
80 ~~personnel are led directly to the exact location of the person in cardiac arrest;~~
- 81 ~~(6)~~(5) Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter, conduct
82 a minimum of two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, with at least one
83 per semester. One such practice drill may be a tabletop drill to walk through a
84 hypothetical scenario and the courses of action a school will need to take before, during,
85 and after a cardiac emergency. The emergency action plan practice drills shall include
86 various locations on school grounds and responses to different hypothetical situations;
- 87 ~~(7)~~(6) Establish a designated internal response team composed of:
- 88 (A) At least five school staff members;

- 89 (B) One or more designated team leads trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
 90 automated external defibrillator use and responsible for oversight of an emergency
 91 response;
- 92 (C) One or more designated cardiopulmonary resuscitation leads trained in
 93 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use;
- 94 (D) One or more designated automated external defibrillator leads, responsible for
 95 knowing the location of automated external defibrillators, retrieving automated external
 96 defibrillators, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators; and
- 97 (E) One or more designated communication leads responsible for activating the
 98 emergency medical services system, facilitating directions to the person in cardiac
 99 arrest for emergency medical services personnel upon arrival at the school, and
 100 coordinating communications with the designated team lead or leads; and
- 101 ~~(8)~~(7) Apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators
 102 and the members of the internal response team.
- 103 (d) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the Department of Education shall
 104 provide funds to local school systems to assist in the purchase of automated external
 105 defibrillators pursuant to this Code section.
- 106 (e) The department and local school systems shall use diligent efforts to identify private
 107 sources of funding or donation of funding and equipment to meet the requirements of this
 108 Code section."

109 **SECTION 3.**

110 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-851, relating to use of
 111 accumulated sick leave for personal or professional reasons, as follows:

112 "20-2-851.

113 During any school year, personnel may utilize up to a maximum of ~~three~~ five days of any
 114 accumulated sick leave for the purpose of absenting themselves from their duties for

115 personal or professional reasons if prior approval of their absence is given by the local
116 school superintendent or his or her authorized representative; provided, however, that the
117 absence is not in conflict with a local board of education policy concerning school days on
118 which the presence of the personnel requesting absence is essential for effective school
119 operation. No grant of approval for an absence permitted under this Code section shall be
120 conditioned upon disclosure of the specific purpose for which such absence is sought, nor
121 shall any such grant of approval be withheld or denied because of the failure or refusal of
122 personnel to disclose the specific purpose for which such an absence is sought; provided,
123 however, that personnel may be requested to state whether the absence is sought under the
124 category of 'personal' or 'professional' absence."

125 **SECTION 4.**

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