

The House Committee on Rules 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 that local boards of education shall be  
3 authorized to provide instruction in hunting safety in grades six through 12; to provide for  
4 the adoption of content standards by the State Board of Education; to provide that local  
5 boards of education may establish a curriculum in hunting safety; to provide for instructor  
6 requirements; to provide for an outdoor learning spaces pilot program; to provide for a pilot  
7 program evaluation and report; to remove the requirement of having a licensed physician in  
8 automated external defibrillator programs; to increase from three to five the number of  
9 accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year  
10 for personal or professional reasons; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
11 and for other purposes.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and  
15 secondary education, is amended in Part 14 of Article 6, relating to other educational

16 programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising Code Section 20-2-308,  
17 which is reserved, as follows:

18 "20-2-308.

19 (a) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each local board of education shall be  
20 authorized to provide instruction in hunting safety in grades six through 12, which  
21 instruction may be incorporated into an existing course of study.

22 (b) No later than April 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall adopt content standards  
23 for such instruction in hunting safety.

24 (c) Each local board of education shall be authorized to establish a curriculum for  
25 instruction in hunting safety, which curriculum shall be based on the hunter education  
26 courses offered by the Department of Natural Resources.

27 (d) Instruction in hunting safety offered pursuant to this Code section shall be taught by  
28 an individual who is certified as a hunter education instructor by the Department of Natural  
29 Resources. Reserved."

## 30 SECTION 2.

31 Said chapter is further amended in Article 11, relating to public school property and facilities,  
32 by adding a new part to read as follows:

### 33 "Part 4

34 20-2-590.

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

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

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

### 52 SECTION 3.

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

55 "20-2-775.

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

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

58 (A) Is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis;

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

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

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

66 (3) 'Internal response team' means the team of school personnel established pursuant to  
67 paragraph ~~(7)~~ (6) of subsection (c) of this Code section responsible for oversight of an  
68 emergency response to a person in cardiac arrest and implementation of the emergency  
69 action plan.

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

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

76 (c) Each school shall:

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

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

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

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

90 ~~(5)~~(4) Establish a written emergency action plan that adheres to nationally recognized  
91 standards and that establishes specific steps to take during a cardiac emergency in a  
92 school setting. Such plan shall be designed to provide for an effective system for

93 communication between members of the internal response team and other school  
94 officials, ensuring that the internal response team or other designated personnel activate  
95 the emergency medical services system as soon as reasonably possible after any person  
96 renders emergency care or treatment to a person in cardiac arrest by using an automated  
97 external defibrillator and ~~report any clinical use of the automated external defibrillator~~  
98 ~~to the licensed physician or other person authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical~~  
99 ~~Board who is supervising the program, and ensuring that emergency medical services~~  
100 personnel are led directly to the exact location of the person in cardiac arrest;

101 ~~(6)~~(5) Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter, conduct  
102 a minimum of two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, with at least one  
103 per semester. One such practice drill may be a tabletop drill to walk through a  
104 hypothetical scenario and the courses of action a school will need to take before, during,  
105 and after a cardiac emergency. The emergency action plan practice drills shall include  
106 various locations on school grounds and responses to different hypothetical situations;

107 ~~(7)~~(6) Establish a designated internal response team composed of:

- 108 (A) At least five school staff members;
- 109 (B) One or more designated team leads trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and  
110 automated external defibrillator use and responsible for oversight of an emergency  
111 response;
- 112 (C) One or more designated cardiopulmonary resuscitation leads trained in  
113 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use;
- 114 (D) One or more designated automated external defibrillator leads, responsible for  
115 knowing the location of automated external defibrillators, retrieving automated external  
116 defibrillators, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators; and
- 117 (E) One or more designated communication leads responsible for activating the  
118 emergency medical services system, facilitating directions to the person in cardiac

119 arrest for emergency medical services personnel upon arrival at the school, and  
120 coordinating communications with the designated team lead or leads; and

121 ~~(8)~~(7) Apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators  
122 and the members of the internal response team.

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

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

129 **SECTION 4.**

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

132 "20-2-851.

133 During any school year, personnel may utilize up to a maximum of ~~three~~ five days of any  
134 accumulated sick leave for the purpose of absenting themselves from their duties for  
135 personal or professional reasons if prior approval of their absence is given by the local  
136 school superintendent or his or her authorized representative; provided, however, that the  
137 absence is not in conflict with a local board of education policy concerning school days on  
138 which the presence of the personnel requesting absence is essential for effective school  
139 operation. No grant of approval for an absence permitted under this Code section shall be  
140 conditioned upon disclosure of the specific purpose for which such absence is sought, nor  
141 shall any such grant of approval be withheld or denied because of the failure or refusal of  
142 personnel to disclose the specific purpose for which such an absence is sought; provided,  
143 however, that personnel may be requested to state whether the absence is sought under the  
144 category of 'personal' or 'professional' absence."

