

House Bill 970

By: Representatives Townsend of the 179th, Washburn of the 144th, O'Steen of the 169th, Rice of the 139th, Hagan of the 156th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to other educational programs relative to the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to expand which healthcare professionals may conduct preparticipation physical
4 examinations; to provide for the period of validity for such examinations; to require
5 healthcare professionals to include a cardiovascular prescreening as part of such
6 examinations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to other educational programs relative to the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
12 amended in Code Section 20-2-319.2, relating to the school interscholastic extracurricular
13 athletic policy providing for the use of a single, comprehensive, preparticipation physical
14 examination form, by revising subsection (c) and by adding a new subsection to read as
15 follows:

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16 ~~“(c) When a school or school district has a policy which requires students who participate~~
17 ~~in extracurricular sports to have a physical examination prior to participation, the~~ The
18 person conducting the physical examination provided for in the policy developed under
19 subsection (a) of this Code section shall be a qualified healthcare professional, including
20 a licensed medical physician, doctor of osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner, or
21 physician's assistant, and shall use the State Board of Education approved form pursuant
22 to subsection subsections (d) and (e) of this Code section, provided that the form may at
23 the option of the local board include additional elements. Physical examinations shall be
24 valid for 12 months from the date of the examination, or, if conducted on or after April 1
25 of the year preceding the applicable school year, shall remain valid through such applicable
26 school year.”

27 “(e) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, a qualified healthcare professional who
28 performs a physical examination of a student athlete shall include in such examination a
29 cardiovascular prescreening that follows nationally recognized, evidence based guidelines
30 recommended by the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, or
31 other nationally recognized organization focused on evidence based cardiovascular care.
32 A student athlete with positive findings should be referred for further evaluation and
33 testing. Educational materials that provide information about causes of sudden cardiac
34 arrest in children that follow evidence based science shall be distributed to parents or
35 guardians of students participating in school sports as part of a student's preparticipation
36 physical examination and completion of athletic permission forms.”

37 **SECTION 2.**

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