

Senate Bill 148

By: Senators Hatchett of the 50th and Rahman of the 5th

AS PASSED

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

S. B. 148

- 1 -

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."

145

SECTION 5.

146 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.