

House Bill 629 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

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 student health, so as to remove the requirement of having a licensed
3 physician in automated external defibrillator programs; to provide instruction and procedures
4 related to bleeding control kits; to provide a definition; to provide for related matters; to
5 provide for contingent effectiveness upon appropriation of funds; to repeal conflicting laws;
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

13 "20-2-775.

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

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

16 (A) Is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis;

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

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

21 (2) 'Bleeding control kit' means a kit used to stop or slow bleeding in emergencies that
22 is approved by the American College of Surgeons and may be obtained through the
23 Georgia Trauma Commission Bleeding Control Kit Program.

24 ~~(2)(3)~~ 'Emergency action plan' means the plan established pursuant to ~~paragraph (5)~~
25 ~~paragraph (7)~~ of subsection (c) of this Code section to provide for an emergency response
26 to a any person in cardiac arrest or experiencing severe bleeding.

27 ~~(3)(4)~~ 'Internal response team' means the team of school personnel established pursuant
28 to ~~paragraph (7)~~ paragraph (9) of subsection (c) of this Code section responsible for
29 oversight of an emergency response to a any person in cardiac arrest or experiencing
30 severe bleeding and implementation of the emergency action plan.

31 ~~(4)(5)~~ 'School' means a public school in this state which provides K-12 education.

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

37 (c) Each school shall:

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

- 42 (2) Ensure that each member of the internal response team and any other expected users
43 of the bleeding control kit utilize an instructional or training program established by the
44 American College of Surgeons for stopping bleeding and the use of a bleeding control kit;
45 ~~(2)(3)~~ Notify the appropriate emergency medical services system of the existence and
46 location of each automated external defibrillator prior to ~~said~~ such automated external
47 defibrillator being placed in use;
- 48 (4) Notify the appropriate emergency medical services system of the existence and
49 location of each bleeding control kit prior to such bleeding control kit being placed in
50 use;
- 51 ~~(3)(5)~~ Ensure that the automated external defibrillator is maintained and tested according
52 to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;
- 53 ~~(4)~~ ~~Ensure that there is involvement of a licensed physician or other person authorized~~
54 ~~by the Georgia Composite Medical Board in the site's automated external defibrillator~~
55 ~~program to ensure compliance with requirements for training, notification, and~~
56 ~~maintenance;~~
- 57 (6) Ensure that the bleeding control kit is maintained and replenished after use;
- 58 ~~(5)(7)~~ Establish a written emergency action plan that adheres to nationally recognized
59 standards and that establishes specific steps to take during ~~a cardiac emergency~~
60 emergencies in a school setting which involve either cardiac arrest or severe bleeding.
61 Such plan shall be designed to:
- 62 (A) Provide ~~provide~~ for an effective system for communication between members of
63 the internal response team and other school officials, ensuring that the internal response
64 team or other designated personnel activate the emergency medical services system as
65 soon as reasonably possible after any person renders emergency care or treatment to a
66 person in cardiac arrest by using an automated external defibrillator and ~~report any~~
67 ~~clinical use of the automated external defibrillator to the licensed physician or other~~
68 ~~person authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical Board who is supervising the~~

69 ~~program, and~~ ensuring that emergency medical services personnel are led directly to the
70 exact location of the person in cardiac arrest; and

71 (B) Provide for an effective system for communication between members of the
72 internal response team and other school officials, ensuring that the internal response
73 team or other designated personnel activate the emergency medical services system as
74 soon as reasonably possible after any person renders emergency care or treatment to a
75 person experiencing severe bleeding by using a bleeding control kit and ensuring that
76 emergency medical services personnel are led directly to the exact location of the
77 person experiencing severe bleeding;

78 ~~(6)~~(8) Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and each school year thereafter, conduct
79 a minimum of two emergency action plan practice drills per school year, with at least one
80 per semester. One such practice drill may be a tabletop drill to walk through a
81 hypothetical scenario and the courses of action a school will need to take before, during,
82 and after a any cardiac emergency or severe bleeding emergency. The emergency action
83 plan practice drills shall include various locations on school grounds and responses to
84 different hypothetical situations;

85 ~~(7)~~(9) Establish a designated internal response team composed of:

86 (A) At least five school staff members;

87 (B) One or more designated team leads trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
88 automated external defibrillator use, and bleeding control kits, and responsible for
89 oversight of an emergency response;

90 (C) One or more designated cardiopulmonary resuscitation leads trained in
91 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and automated external defibrillator use, and bleeding
92 control kits;

93 (D) One or more designated automated external defibrillator leads who shall be
94 responsible for knowing the location of automated external defibrillators, retrieving
95 automated external defibrillators, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators

96 and who shall also be responsible for knowing the location of bleeding control kits,
 97 retrieving bleeding control kits, and maintenance of bleeding control kits; and

98 (E) One or more designated communication leads responsible for activating the
 99 emergency medical services system, facilitating directions to ~~the~~ any person in cardiac
 100 arrest or experiencing severe bleeding for emergency medical services personnel upon
 101 arrival at the school, and coordinating communications with the designated team lead
 102 or leads; and

103 ~~(8)(10)~~ Apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators,
 104 bleeding control kits, and the members of the internal response team.

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

108 (e) The department and local systems shall consult as necessary with the Georgia Trauma
 109 Commission Bleeding Control Kit Program and Regional Trauma Advisory Committee
 110 coordinators to obtain bleeding control kits and training to meet the requirements of this
 111 Code section.

112 ~~(e)~~(f) The department and local school systems shall use diligent efforts to identify private
 113 sources of funding or donation of funding and equipment for cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 114 and automated external defibrillator use to meet the requirements of this Code section."

115 **SECTION 2.**

116 (a) This Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for purposes
 117 of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

118 (b) If funds are so appropriated, then this Act shall become effective on the later of:

119 (1) The date on which such appropriations Act becomes effective; or

120 (2) The beginning date of the fiscal year for which such appropriations are made.

121

SECTION 3.

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