

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth offered the following substitute to HB 629:

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 contingent  
5 effectiveness upon appropriation of funds; to amend Code Section 20-2-218 of the Official  
6 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to duty-free lunch period and planning period required,  
7 exemption for extenuating circumstances, and funding, so as to provide that said Code  
8 section shall not be subject to waiver; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to  
9 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

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

16 "20-2-775.

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

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

19 (A) Is capable of cardiac rhythm analysis;

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

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

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

27 ~~(2)~~(3) 'Emergency action plan' means the plan established pursuant to ~~paragraph (5)~~  
28 paragraph (7) of subsection (c) of this Code section to provide for an emergency response  
29 to a any person in cardiac arrest or experiencing severe bleeding.

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

34 ~~(4)~~(5) 'School' means a public school in this state which provides K-12 education.

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

40 (c) Each school shall:

41 (1) Ensure that each member of the internal response team and any other expected users  
42 of the automated external defibrillator receive American Heart Association or American

43 Red Cross training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator  
 44 use or complete an equivalent nationally recognized course;

45 (2) Ensure that each member of the internal response team and any other expected users  
 46 of the bleeding control kit utilize an instructional or training program established by the  
 47 American College of Surgeons for stopping bleeding and the use of a bleeding control kit;

48 ~~(2)~~(3) Notify the appropriate emergency medical services system of the existence and  
 49 location of each automated external defibrillator prior to ~~said~~ such automated external  
 50 defibrillator being placed in use;

51 (4) Notify the appropriate emergency medical services system of the existence and  
 52 location of each bleeding control kit prior to such bleeding control kit being placed in  
 53 use;

54 ~~(3)~~(5) Ensure that the automated external defibrillator is maintained and tested according  
 55 to the manufacturer's operational guidelines;

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

60 (6) Ensure that the bleeding control kit is maintained and replenished after use;

61 ~~(5)~~(7) Establish a written emergency action plan that adheres to nationally recognized  
 62 standards and that establishes specific steps to take during ~~a cardiac emergency~~  
 63 emergencies in a school setting which involve either cardiac arrest or severe bleeding.

64 Such plan shall be designed to:

65 (A) Provide ~~provide~~ for an effective system for communication between members of  
 66 the internal response team and other school officials, ensuring that the internal response  
 67 team or other designated personnel activate the emergency medical services system as  
 68 soon as reasonably possible after any person renders emergency care or treatment to a  
 69 person in cardiac arrest by using an automated external defibrillator and ~~report any~~

70 ~~clinical use of the automated external defibrillator to the licensed physician or other~~  
71 ~~person authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical Board who is supervising the~~  
72 ~~program, and ensuring that emergency medical services personnel are led directly to the~~  
73 ~~exact location of the person in cardiac arrest; and~~

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

81 ~~(6)~~(8) 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 any cardiac emergency or severe bleeding emergency. The emergency action  
86 plan practice drills shall include various locations on school grounds and responses to  
87 different hypothetical situations;

88 ~~(7)~~(9) Establish a designated internal response team composed of:

89 (A) At least five school staff members;

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

93 (C) One or more designated cardiopulmonary resuscitation leads trained in  
94 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, ~~and~~ automated external defibrillator use, and bleeding  
95 control kits;

96 (D) One or more designated automated external defibrillator leads who shall be  
97 responsible for knowing the location of automated external defibrillators, retrieving  
98 automated external defibrillators, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators  
99 and who shall also be responsible for knowing the location of bleeding control kits,  
100 retrieving bleeding control kits, and maintenance of bleeding control kits; and

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

106 ~~(8)~~(10) Apprise all school personnel of the location of automated external defibrillators,  
107 bleeding control kits, and the members of the internal response team.

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

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

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

118 **SECTION 2.**

119 Code Section 20-2-218 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to duty-free lunch  
120 period and planning period required, exemption for extenuating circumstances, and funding,  
121 is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

122 “(h) This Code section shall not be subject to waiver pursuant to Code Section 20-2-82 for a  
123 strategic waivers school system, Code Section 20-2-2063.2 or 20-2-2065 for a charter  
124 system, Code Section 20-2-2065 for a charter school, Code Section 20-2-2096.3 for a  
125 completion special school, or Code Section 20-2-244.”

126

**SECTION 3.**

127 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become  
128 effective on July 1, 2026.

129 (b) Section 1 of this Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically appropriated  
130 for purposes of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly. If funds  
131 are so appropriated, then this Act shall become effective on the later of:

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

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

134 (c) Section 2 of this Act shall apply to all school years beginning with the 2026-2027 school  
135 year.

136

**SECTION 4.**

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