

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/24/17 S3/28/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1509

By: Representatives Leding, J. Williams

By: Senator L. Eads

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION  
ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO CREATE THE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST  
PREVENTION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest  
Prevention Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-708 is amended to read as follows:

6-18-708. Health and safety in public schools.

(a) A school district shall develop procedures concerning student physical activity in its public schools that include without limitation the recognition and management of the following events or conditions that may be encountered by a student during athletic training and physical activities:

- (1) A concussion, dehydration, or other health emergency;
- (2) An environmental issue that threatens the health or safety of students; ~~and~~
- (3) A communicable disease; and
- (4) A sudden cardiac arrest.

*(b)(1) Every three (3) years as part of the requirements for professional development, a person employed by a school district as an*



athletics coach shall complete training on the events and conditions *identified in subsection (a) of this section.*

(2) The training may include a component on best practices for a coach to educate parents of students involved in athletics on sports safety.

(c)(1) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a person employed by a school district as an athletics coach who fails to meet the requirements of subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall not be eligible to coach an athletic activity until the training requirements are met.

(2) If a person fails to meet the requirements of subdivision (b)(1) of this section and continues to coach an athletic activity, the school district shall:

(A) For the first violation, suspend the person from coaching an athletic activity until training requirements are met;

(B) For the second violation, suspend the person from coaching an athletic activity for the remainder of the athletic season and the next athletic season; and

(C) For the third violation, permanently suspend the person from coaching an athletic activity.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-712. Student sudden cardiac arrest education.

(a)(1) As used in this section, "athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity that is sponsored or associated with a school and in which the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen (19) years of age are:

(A) Engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity; or

(B) In practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity.

(2) "Athletic activity" includes without limitation:

(A) Interscholastic athletics;

(B) Cheerleading, whether or not the cheerleading is competitive;

(C) Club-sponsored sports activities; and

(D) Sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated

organizations.

(b) The Department of Education shall develop guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate school officials, teachers, athletic coaches, students, and parents about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to participate in or practice an athletic activity when experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- (1) Fainting or seizures during exercise;
- (2) Unexplained shortness of breath;
- (3) Chest pain;
- (4) Dizziness;
- (5) Racing heart beat; or
- (6) Extreme fatigue.

(c) A school may hold an informational meeting before the start of each athletic activity season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for the following individuals:

- (1) Student competitors of all ages;
- (2) Parents or legal guardians;
- (3) Coaches and athletic trainers;
- (4) Healthcare professionals, including without limitation physicians and pediatric cardiologists; and
- (5) Other school officials.

(d) Before participation in an athletic activity and before each school year while participating in an athletic activity, a student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding sudden cardiac arrest.

(e)(1) If a student faints or loses consciousness while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity, the athletic director, coach, or athletic trainer shall remove the student from participation in the athletic activity at that time.

(2)(A) If a student exhibits any symptom as described in subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), or (b)(6) of this section while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity and an athletic trainer reasonably believes that the symptom is cardiac-related, the athletic trainer may remove the student from participation in the athletic

activity at that time.

(B) A coach who observes a student exhibiting any symptom as described in subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), or (b)(6) of this section while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity shall notify the parent or legal guardian of the student's symptom.

(3) A student who is removed from participation in an athletic activity shall not be permitted to return to participation in an athletic activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a licensed medical physician in the State of Arkansas.

(4) A coach, athletic director, school nurse, or athletic trainer acting in good faith under this section is not liable for any action or inaction unless the coach, athletic director, school nurse, or athletic trainer is acting in a grossly negligent or reckless manner.

(f) All sponsors of youth athletic activities are encouraged to follow the guidelines developed by the Department of Health.

*/s/Leding*