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H.247

Introduced by Representatives Micklus of Milton, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin
of Barre City, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Dickinson of St.
Albans Town, Hango of Berkshire, Morgan, L. of Milton,
Morgan, M. of Milton, Nielsen of Brandon, Steady of Milton,
and Taylor of Milton

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; health and safety; cardiac emergency response plan

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require school
districts and independent schools to develop cardiac emergency response
plans.

An act relating to cardiac emergency response plans in schools

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1433 is added to read:

§ 1433. ACUTE CARDIAC EVENTS IN SCHOOLS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Automated external defibrillator (AED)” has the same meaning as
in 18 V.S.A. § 907(a)(1).

(2) “Cardiac emergency response plan” means a written document that

2 establishes the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting,
3 including a school, community organization, workplace, or sports facility.

4 (3) “Sudden cardiac arrest” means the sudden loss of all heart activity
5 due to an irregular heart rhythm, which if not treated within minutes can
6 quickly lead to death.

7 (b) Establishment of a cardiac emergency response plan.

8 (1) Each school district and independent school shall develop a cardiac
9 emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school
10 personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden
11 cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.

12 ~~(2) Each school district and approved independent school with an~~
13 ~~athletic department or organized athletic program shall develop a cardiac~~
14 ~~emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school~~
15 ~~personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden~~
16 ~~cardiac arrest or a similar life threatening emergency while attending or~~
17 ~~participating in an athletic practice or event while on school grounds.~~

18 ~~Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, each school with an athletic department or~~
~~organized athletic program shall establish, review and annually rehearse an athletics~~
~~emergency action plan (AEAP) for responding to serious or life-threatening injury for~~
~~students participating in sports or other athletic activities as outlined by the policies~~
~~and procedures on emergency preparedness for athletics and activities set for by the~~
~~Vermont Principals Association (VPA.)~~

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20 (3) School officials shall work directly with local emergency service

21 providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plan into the
22 community's emergency medical service responder protocols. Each plan shall
integrate evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the
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1 American Heart Association guidelines or another nationally recognized,
2 evidence-based standard.

3 (c) Plan requirements. The cardiac emergency response plan and athletic
emergency action plan shall include, at a minimum, policies on:

- 4 (1) establishment of a cardiac emergency response team;
- 5 (2) guidelines for when a team is activated in response to a sudden
6 cardiac event;
- 7 (3) implementation of AED placement and routine maintenance within
8 the school;
- 9 (4) dissemination of the plan throughout the school campus;
- 10 (5) maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR and AED use;
- 11 (6) practice drills;
- 12 (7) integrating local EMS with the plan; and
- 13 (8) ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the plan.

14 (d) AED placement. Appropriate AED placement shall be dictated by the
15 cardiac emergency response plan and in accordance with guidelines set by the
American Heart Association. The plan for AED placement shall include that there are
clearly marked and easily accessible automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at each
athletic venue where practices or competitions are held.

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17 (e) Training. Appropriate school staff shall be trained in first-aid, CPR,
18 and AED use that follow evidence-based guidelines set forth by the American
19 Heart Association. Staff trained shall be determined by the cardiac emergency
20 response plan, ~~including licensed coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers.~~ All
 coaches shall obtain and maintain training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid
 and the use of an automated external defibrillator.

1 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION

2 School districts and independent schools shall have a cardiac emergency
3 response plan developed and ready for implementation beginning in the 2025–
4 2026 school year.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.