

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 162
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H162-PCS40417-TB-13

Short Title: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education/Students.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 9, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL BOARDS
3 OF EDUCATION TO EDUCATE THOSE INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ATHLETIC
4 ACTIVITIES ON SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AND TO RECODIFY THE
5 STATUTORY PROVISIONS ON CONCUSSION SAFETY AND EMERGENCY
6 ACTION PLANS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
9 Article to read:

10 "Article 29E.

11 "Student Safety in Athletics.

12 **"§ 115C-407.40. Definitions.**

13 The following definitions apply in this Article:

14 (1) Athletic activity. – An activity offered to students in any of the following
15 circumstances:

16 a. Interscholastic athletics.

17 b. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic
18 athletics, that is sponsored by a school, including cheerleading, or
19 any other sports activities provided by a club or school-affiliated
20 organization that is school-sponsored.

21 c. Practices, interschool practices, and scrimmages for all of the
22 activities listed under this subdivision.

23 (2) Concussion. – A traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact
24 to the head that results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or
25 may not result in loss of consciousness.

26 (3) Sudden cardiac arrest. – The sudden, unexpected loss of heart function,
27 breathing, and consciousness.

28 **"§ 115C-407.41. Sudden cardiac arrest education.**

29 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop guidelines and educational materials to
30 be used by local boards of education to inform students who participate in athletic activities and
31 those students' parents and coaches on the awareness, recognition, and management of sudden
32 cardiac arrest. In developing these guidelines and materials, the State Board may utilize
33 existing materials developed by heart health awareness organizations, including the American
34 Heart Association, Parent Heart Watch, and the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes
35 Foundation. The State Board shall also publish a list of approved providers of CPR Instruction
36 training courses to be offered to coaches of athletic activities.



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1 **(b) Each school year, prior to participation by a student in an athletic activity, the**
2 **student's parent or guardian shall sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgment of**
3 **receipt and review of a sudden cardiac arrest awareness information sheet developed in**
4 **accordance with materials provided by the State Board of Education under subsection (a) of**
5 **this section.**

6 **(c) Each school year, prior to participation by a student in an athletic activity, the**
7 **student shall complete a heart history questionnaire as part of the pre-participation physical**
8 **examination developed in accordance with materials provided by the State Board of Education**
9 **under subsection (a) of this section.**

10 **(d) Each local school administrative unit shall require coaches of athletic activities to**
11 **complete and maintain CPR certification offered by a provider approved by the State Board of**
12 **Education under subsection (a) of this section. A coach shall not be eligible to coach an athletic**
13 **activity until such time the coach completes the training course.**

14 **(e) A school may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season**
15 **for all ages of competitors regarding sudden cardiac arrest awareness. A school is encouraged**
16 **to have physicians, pediatric cardiologists, and athletic trainers attend the meeting to provide**
17 **information to students, parents, coaches, and other school officials.**

18 **(f) Other sponsors of youth athletic activities are encouraged to adopt guidelines to**
19 **address sudden cardiac arrest for students participating in athletics that are consistent with this**
20 **section.**

21 **"§ 115C-407.42. Concussion safety.**

22 **The State Board of Education shall adopt rules governing interscholastic athletic activities**
23 **with regard to concussion safety for student athletes in middle schools and high schools that**
24 **provide for the following:**

25 **(1) All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers,**
26 **students who participate in interscholastic athletic activities, and the parents**
27 **of those students shall receive, on an annual basis, a concussion and head**
28 **injury information sheet. School employees, first responders, volunteers, and**
29 **students must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before they can**
30 **participate in interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices,**
31 **or competition. Parents must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before**
32 **their children can participate in any such interscholastic athletic activities.**
33 **The signed sheets shall be maintained in accordance with subdivision (3) of**
34 **this section.**

35 **(2) If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity exhibits signs**
36 **or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student shall be removed from**
37 **the activity at that time and shall not be allowed to return to play or practice**
38 **that day. The student shall not return to play or practice on a subsequent day**
39 **until the student is evaluated by and receives written clearance for such**
40 **participation from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of**
41 **the General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a**
42 **neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the General**
43 **Statutes with training in concussion management and working in**
44 **consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the**
45 **General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed under Article 34 of Chapter**
46 **90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a physician assistant, consistent with the**
47 **limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or (v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the**
48 **limitations of G.S. 90-18.2.**

49 **(3) Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its compliance**
50 **with the requirements of this section pertaining to head injuries.**

51 **"§ 115C-407.43. Venue-specific emergency action plans.**

1 A local board of education shall require each middle school and high school to develop a
2 venue-specific emergency action plan to deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions
3 in which the condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall include a
4 delineation of roles, methods of communication, available emergency equipment, and access to
5 and plan for emergency transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic
6 trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of the school, (iv) distributed
7 to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and
8 rehearsed annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches, school nurses,
9 athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic athletic activities."

10 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-12(23) reads as rewritten:

11 "(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –

12 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules governing interscholastic
13 athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including (i)
14 eligibility for student participation. ~~With regard to middle schools and high~~
15 ~~schools, the rules shall provide for the following: participation and (ii)~~
16 student safety in accordance with Article 29E of this Chapter.

17 a. ~~All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders,~~
18 ~~volunteers, students who participate in interscholastic athletic~~
19 ~~activities, and the parents of those students shall receive, on an~~
20 ~~annual basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet. School~~
21 ~~employees, first responders, volunteers, and students must sign the~~
22 ~~sheet and return it to the coach before they can participate in~~
23 ~~interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or~~
24 ~~competition. Parents must sign the sheet and return it to the coach~~
25 ~~before their children can participate in any such interscholastic~~
26 ~~athletic activities. The signed sheets shall be maintained in~~
27 ~~accordance with sub-subdivision d. of this subdivision.~~

28 For the purpose of this subdivision, a concussion is a traumatic
29 brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that
30 results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not
31 result in loss of consciousness.

32 b. ~~If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity~~
33 ~~exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student~~
34 ~~shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be~~
35 ~~allowed to return to play or practice that day. The student shall not~~
36 ~~return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the student is~~
37 ~~evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation~~
38 ~~from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the~~
39 ~~General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a~~
40 ~~neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the~~
41 ~~General Statutes with training in concussion management and~~
42 ~~working in consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of~~
43 ~~Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed~~
44 ~~under Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a~~
45 ~~physician assistant, consistent with the limitations of G.S. 90 18.1, or~~
46 ~~(v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of~~
47 ~~G.S. 90 18.2.~~

48 e. ~~Each school shall develop a venue specific emergency action plan to~~
49 ~~deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the~~
50 ~~condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall~~
51 ~~include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available~~

1 emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency
2 transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic
3 trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of
4 the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted
5 conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed
6 annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,
7 school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic
8 athletic activities.

9 d. Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its
10 compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to
11 head injuries.

12 The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to
13 apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic
14 athletic activities at the high school level."

15 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
16 the 2016-2017 school year.