



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Amy J. Rinehart

H.B. 180

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Pillich, Antonio, R. Hagan, Strahorn

BILL SUMMARY

- Before each athletic season, authorizes a school to hold an informational meeting regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Prohibits a student from participating in a school-sponsored athletic activity until the student submits a signed form acknowledging receipt of the guidelines and materials on sudden cardiac arrest that the bill requires be created.
- Prohibits an individual from coaching a school-sponsored athletic activity unless the individual has completed, within the previous year, a sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Department of Health.
- Prohibits a student from participating in a school-sponsored athletic activity if the student is known to have exhibited signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Requires a student to be removed from participation if the student exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Prohibits a student from participating or returning to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return by a specified health professional.
- Requires a school to establish certain penalties for a coach who violates the bill's provisions regarding participation in, removal from, or returning to an athletic activity when a student exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Requires the Department of Health and the Department of Education to jointly develop and post on their web sites guidelines and materials to educate students, parents, and coaches about sudden cardiac arrest.

- Requires the Department of Health to approve a sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by an outside entity.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities

The bill establishes several prohibitions and requirements related to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities sponsored by or associated with a school. The bill's provisions apply to both of the following:¹

(1) Public schools, including schools operated by school districts; community schools; and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) schools;

(2) Chartered and nonchartered nonpublic schools that are subject to the rules of an interscholastic conference or an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events.

The bill defines "athletic activity" as all of the following:

(1) Interscholastic athletics;

(2) An athletic contest or competition sponsored by or associated with a school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities, and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations;

(3) Noncompetitive cheerleading sponsored by school-affiliated organizations;

(4) Practices, interschool practices, and scrimmages for all of the activities described above.²

Informational meeting

Before each athletic season, the bill authorizes a school to hold an informational meeting for students, parents, guardians, other persons having care or charge of a student, physicians, pediatric cardiologists, athletic trainers, and any other persons regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students.³

¹ R.C. 3313.5310(A)(1).

² R.C. 3313.5310(A)(2).

³ R.C. 3313.5310(B).

Receipt of information on sudden cardiac arrest

The bill prohibits a student from participating in an athletic activity until the student has submitted to a designated school official a form signed by both the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student, acknowledging receipt and review of the guidelines and materials on sudden cardiac arrest developed jointly by the Department of Health and Department of Education (see "**Sudden cardiac arrest guidelines and materials**," below). A completed form must be submitted each school year for each athletic activity in which the student participates.⁴

Training for coaches

The bill prohibits an individual from coaching an athletic activity unless the individual has completed, within the previous year, a sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Department of Health (see "**Sudden cardiac arrest training course**," below).⁵

Prohibition against participation in athletic activity

The bill prohibits a student from participating in an athletic activity if the student is known to have exhibited signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following an athletic activity.⁶ These symptoms include fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and an abnormal racing heartbeat.⁷

Removal from activity

The bill requires a student's coach to remove the student from participation in an athletic activity if the student exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest as determined by (1) a game official, (2) a coach of the student's team, (3) an athletic trainer, (4) a physician, or (5) any other official designated by a school.⁸

Evaluation and clearance to return

If a student is not allowed to participate in or is removed from participation in an athletic activity, the student is prohibited from participation in the activity until the

⁴ R.C. 3313.5310(C).

⁵ R.C. 3313.5310(D).

⁶ R.C. 3313.5310(E)(1).

⁷ R.C. 3707.57.

⁸ R.C. 3313.5310(E)(2).

student is evaluated and cleared for return in writing by a physician, certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse mid-wife, or physician who specializes in cardiology.⁹

The bill authorizes the licensed health care providers specified above to consult with any other licensed or certified health care providers to determine whether a student is ready to return to participation.¹⁰

Penalties

The bill requires a school to establish the following minimum penalties for a coach who violates the bill's provisions regarding participation in, removal from, or returning to an athletic activity when a student exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest:

(1) For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season;

(2) For a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season;

(3) For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.¹¹

The bill specifies that its provisions must not be construed to do either of the following:

(1) Abridge or limit any rights provided under a collective bargaining agreement entered into before the bill's effective date;

(2) Create, establish, expand, reduce, contract, or eliminate any civil liability on the part of any school or any employee of a school.¹²

Sudden cardiac arrest guidelines and materials

The bill requires the Department of Health and the Department of Education to jointly develop and post on their web sites guidelines and other relevant materials to

⁹ This reference appears to duplicate the earlier general reference to physicians.

¹⁰ R.C. 3313.5310(E)(3).

¹¹ R.C. 3313.5310(F).

¹² R.C. 3313.5310(G).

inform and educate students participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. In developing the guidelines and materials, the Departments may use existing materials developed by the Parent Heart Watch Organization, the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation, and any other organizations deemed appropriate by the Departments.¹³

The guidelines and materials must address the risks associated with continuing to participate in an athletic activity after experiencing one or more symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, such as fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and an abnormal racing heart rate.¹⁴

Sponsors of nonschool-related athletic activities

The bill specifies that a sponsor of an athletic activity that is not associated with a school and therefore not subject to the bill's provisions is encouraged to follow the bill's prohibitions and requirements regarding sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities.¹⁵

Sudden cardiac arrest training course

The bill requires the Department of Health to approve a sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by an outside entity. Completion of the training course is required by the bill to coach a school-sponsored athletic activity.¹⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-28-13

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¹³ R.C. 3707.57(A) and (B).

¹⁴ R.C. 3707.57(A).

¹⁵ R.C. 3707.56.

¹⁶ R.C. 3707.57(C).

