

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 162

Short Title: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention/Students. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Carney, Horn, McGrady, and Glazier (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Health.

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 ADDRESS SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION IN
4 STUDENT ATHLETES AND TO RECODIFY THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS ON
5 CONCUSSION SAFETY AND EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

9 "Article 29E.

10 "Student Safety in Athletics.

11 **"§ 115C-407.40. Definitions.**

12 The following definitions apply in this Article:

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

15 a. Interscholastic athletics.

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

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

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

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

27 **"§ 115C-407.41. Sudden cardiac arrest prevention.**

28 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt guidelines and educational materials to be
29 used by local boards of education to inform students who participate in athletic activities and
30 those students' parents and coaches on (i) the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest
31 and (ii) the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing one or more
32 symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, including fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains,
33 dizziness, and abnormal racing heart rate. In developing these guidelines and materials, the
34 State Board may utilize existing materials developed by heart health awareness organizations,
35 including Parent Heart Watch and Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes. The State Board shall



1 also publish a list of approved providers of sudden cardiac arrest training courses to be offered
2 to coaches of athletic activities.

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

8 (c) A school may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season
9 for all ages of competitors regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.
10 A school is encouraged to have physicians, pediatric cardiologists, and athletic trainers attend
11 the meeting to provide information to students, parents, coaches, and other school officials.

12 (d) A student who exhibits, or is known to have exhibited, signs or symptoms of sudden
13 cardiac arrest, as determined by a game official, coach from the student's team, certified athletic
14 trainer, licensed healthcare professional, or other official designated by the school under the
15 venue-specific emergency action plan, at any time prior to, during, or following an athletic
16 activity shall be removed by the coach from participation in an athletic activity. A student
17 removed or prevented from participating in an athletic activity in accordance with this
18 subsection shall not return to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return
19 to participation in writing by (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the
20 General Statutes, including a cardiologist, (ii) a physician assistant, consistent with the
21 limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or (iii) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of
22 G.S. 90-18.2.

23 (e) Once each school year, each local school administrative unit shall require coaches
24 of athletic activities to complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider
25 approved by the State Board of Education under subsection (a) of this section. A coach shall
26 not be eligible to coach an athletic activity until such time the coach completes the training
27 course.

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

31 **"§ 115C-407.42. Concussion safety.**

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

35 (1) All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers,
36 students who participate in interscholastic athletic activities, and the parents
37 of those students shall receive, on an annual basis, a concussion and head
38 injury information sheet. School employees, first responders, volunteers, and
39 students must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before they can
40 participate in interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices,
41 or competition. Parents must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before
42 their children can participate in any such interscholastic athletic activities.
43 The signed sheets shall be maintained in accordance with subdivision (3) of
44 this subsection.

45 (2) If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity exhibits signs
46 or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student shall be removed from
47 the activity at that time and shall not be allowed to return to play or practice
48 that day. The student shall not return to play or practice on a subsequent day
49 until the student is evaluated by and receives written clearance for such
50 participation from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the
51 General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a

1 neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the General
2 Statutes with training in concussion management and working in
3 consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the
4 General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed under Article 34 of Chapter
5 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a physician assistant, consistent with the
6 limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or (v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the
7 limitations of G.S. 90-18.2.

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

10 **"§ 115C-407.43. Venue-specific emergency action plans.**

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

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

21 "(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. –
22 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules governing interscholastic
23 athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including (i)
24 eligibility for student ~~participation~~-participation and (ii) student safety in
25 accordance with Article 29E of this Chapter. ~~With regard to middle schools~~
26 ~~and high schools, the rules shall provide for the following:-~~

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

38 ~~For the purpose of this subdivision, a concussion is a traumatic~~
39 ~~brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that~~
40 ~~results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not~~
41 ~~result in loss of consciousness.~~

42 b. ~~If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity~~
43 ~~exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student~~
44 ~~shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be~~
45 ~~allowed to return to play or practice that day. The student shall not~~
46 ~~return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the student is~~
47 ~~evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation~~
48 ~~from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the~~
49 ~~General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a~~
50 ~~neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the~~
51 ~~General Statutes with training in concussion management and~~

1 ~~working in consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of~~
2 ~~Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed~~
3 ~~under Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a~~
4 ~~physician assistant, consistent with the limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or~~
5 ~~(v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of~~
6 ~~G.S. 90-18.2.~~

7 e. ~~Each school shall develop a venue specific emergency action plan to~~
8 ~~deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the~~
9 ~~condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall~~
10 ~~include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available~~
11 ~~emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency~~
12 ~~transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic~~
13 ~~trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of~~
14 ~~the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted~~
15 ~~conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed~~
16 ~~annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,~~
17 ~~school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic~~
18 ~~athletic activities.~~

19 d. ~~Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its~~
20 ~~compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to~~
21 ~~head injuries.~~

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

25 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
26 the 2015-2016 school year.