

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 162  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/21/15

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.



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.