

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 SENATE BILL 39

By: Anderson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to student athlete health; creating
8 the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act; providing
9 short title; defining terms; directing the
10 development and posting of certain information and
11 materials; permitting the use of certain existing
12 materials; requiring certain acknowledgement;
13 authorizing certain informational meetings; requiring
14 removal of certain students in specified situations;
15 requiring certain evaluation and clearance;
16 permitting certain consultation; requiring certain
17 persons to complete specified training course;
18 specifying certain penalties; encouraging certain
19 compliance; clarifying construction of act; providing
20 for codification; providing an effective date; and
21 declaring an emergency.

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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-156 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Sudden
Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act".

B. As used in the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act:

1. "Athletic activity" means any of the following activities:

- 1 a. interscholastic athletics,
- 2 b. an athletic contest or competition, other than
- 3 interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or
- 4 associated with a school, including, but not limited
- 5 to, cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities,
- 6 and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated
- 7 organizations,
- 8 c. noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or
- 9 associated with a school, or
- 10 d. practices, interschool practices, and scrimmages for
- 11 all of the activities listed in subparagraphs a, b,
- 12 and c of this paragraph; and

13 2. "Interscholastic athletics" means any sport sanctioned and
14 offered by the school district.

15 C. The State Department of Health and the State Department of
16 Education shall jointly develop and post on their publicly
17 accessible websites guidelines and other relevant materials to
18 inform and educate students participating in or desiring to
19 participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their
20 coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest,
21 including the risks associated with continuing to play or practice
22 after experiencing one or more symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest,
23 including fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness,
24 and abnormal racing heart rate. In developing the guidelines and

1 materials, the State Department of Health and the State Department
2 of Education may utilize existing materials developed by other
3 entities or organizations.

4 D. A student participating in or desiring to participate in an
5 athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each
6 school year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic
7 activity, sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgement
8 of receipt and review of a sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and
9 warning signs information sheet jointly developed by the State
10 Department of Health and the State Department of Education.

11 E. A school may hold an informational meeting prior to the
12 start of each athletic season for all ages of competitors regarding
13 the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. In
14 addition to students, parents, coaches, and other school officials,
15 informational meetings may include physicians, pediatric
16 cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

17 F. A student who, as determined by a game official, coach from
18 the student's team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician,
19 or other official designated by the student's school, exhibits signs
20 or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in an
21 athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation
22 at that time. If a student is known to have exhibited signs or
23 symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following
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1 an athletic activity, the student shall be prevented from
2 participating in an athletic activity.

3 G. A student removed or prevented from participating in an
4 athletic activity pursuant to subsection F of this section shall not
5 return to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared
6 for return to participation in writing by a licensed physician,
7 certified nurse practitioner, or cardiologist. In order to help
8 determine whether a student is ready to return to play, the licensed
9 physician or certified nurse practitioner may consult other licensed
10 or certified medical professionals.

11 H. Once each year, a coach of an athletic activity shall
12 complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a
13 provider approved by the State Department of Health. A coach of an
14 athletic activity shall not coach the athletic activity until the
15 coach completes the training course required under this subsection.

16 I. Each school district board shall establish the following
17 minimum penalties for a coach found in violation of subsections F
18 and G of this section:

19 1. For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic
20 activity for the remainder of the season;

21 2. For a second violation, suspension from coaching any
22 athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next
23 season; and

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1 3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching
2 any athletic activity.

3 J. The sponsors of youth athletic activities not associated
4 with a school are encouraged to follow the guidance stated in this
5 act.

6 K. Nothing in this act shall be construed to create, establish,
7 expand, reduce, contract, or eliminate any civil liability on the
8 part of any school or school employee.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

10 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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