

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 1024

(Senator Brooks)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

**Public Middle and High Schools - Cardiac Emergency Response Plans for
Athletic Facilities (The Bailey Bullock Act)**

This bill requires each public middle and high school to include a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) as a component of its venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities. The CERP must (1) identify the appropriate school personnel as the cardiac emergency response team to respond to incidents involving sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while at an athletic facility; (2) coordinate with first responders in the local emergency medical services (EMS) to integrate the plan into local emergency response protocols; (3) include specified evidence-based core elements recommended by an appropriate national organization; and (4) be annually reviewed and updated by each middle school and high school. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Local school systems may incur minimal administrative and training costs under the bill, but school systems can likely integrate the required plan into existing related plans and practices with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Venue-specific Emergency Action Plan for Public School Athletic Facilities

Chapter 212 of 2022 requires each middle school and high school to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for the operation and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and for heat acclimatization. The venue-specific emergency action plan must also include coordination of care for other injuries and severe weather for outdoor facilities.

The venue-specific emergency action plan must include guidelines for heat acclimatization for student athletes, as specified, and ensure that (1) each school is properly prepared and equipped to initiate cold water immersion for the treatment of exertional heat stroke; (2) a cooling modality is readily available to student athletes at all athletic practices and events on school property; (3) all members of the coaching staff are trained in cold water immersion; and (4) a trained member of the coaching staff is present at all athletic practices and events on school property.

Public Schools Automated External Defibrillator Program

Each county board must develop and implement an AED program that meets certain requirements for each high school and middle school in the county. Each middle school and high school must develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for the operation and use of AEDs. Each middle school and high school must also develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for all athletic facilities that, among other provisions, includes operation and use of AEDs.

According to the Code of Maryland Regulations, each county board must develop and implement a High School and Middle School AED Program requiring, at minimum one:

- AED on site in each public high school and middle school, which must be available for use at each school-sponsored athletic event;
- individual trained in the operation and use of an AED present at each school-sponsored athletic event; and
- individual trained in the operation and use of an AED on site at each high school and middle school during the regular school day.

Among other specifications, the program must (1) comply with the rules, regulations, and policies that the State EMS Board determines are applicable; (2) designate an

AED coordinator who is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED operation who is responsible for implementation and administration of the AED program; and (3) contact and collaborate with the closest jurisdictional EMS operational program once the High School and Middle School AED Program is approved by the EMS Board.

The Maryland State Department of Education must develop policies and implement a program to provide awareness to coaches, school personnel, students, and the parents of students, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, each county board, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association, Parent Heart Watch, and licensed health care providers who treat heart issues on (1) the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and (2) the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing a symptom of sudden cardiac arrest.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1219 (Delegate Feldmark, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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