

18A:40-41e to 18A:40-41j

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2013 **CHAPTER:** 209

NJSA: 18A:40-41e to 18A:40-41j ("Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act"; provides student-athletes, parents, and coaches with information on sudden cardiac arrest and establishes protocol concerning removal-from-play for athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest)

BILL NO: S2367 (Substituted for A4415)

SPONSOR(S) Codey and others

DATE INTRODUCED: December 17, 2012

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** December 19, 2013

SENATE: January 9, 2014

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 17, 2014

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second reprint enacted)

S2367

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A4415

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

LAW/KR

P.L.2013, CHAPTER 209, *approved January 17, 2014*
Senate, No. 2367 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the health of student-athletes, amending
2 P.L.2007, c.125, and supplementing chapter 3A of Title 15A and
3 chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. (New section) Sections 2 through 5 of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and P.L.2007, c.125
10 (C.18A:40-41) shall be known and may be cited as the “Sudden
11 Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.”

12
13 2. (New section) As used in sections 3 through 5 of
14 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
15 “athletic activity” means: interscholastic athletics; an athletic
16 contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is
17 sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic
18 school, including cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities;
19 and any practice or interschool practice or scrimmage for those
20 activities.

21
22 3. (New section) A school district or nonpublic school may
23 hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic
24 season for students-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches,
25 athletic trainers, the school physician, school nurses, and other
26 school officials on the nature, risk, symptoms and early warning
27 signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

28
29 4. (New section) a. A student who exhibits symptoms or early
30 warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, as determined by ¹an
31 athletic trainer if one is on site, or if an athletic trainer is not on site,
32 then¹ a game official, team coach ¹[, athletic trainer]¹ , licensed
33 physician, or other official designated by the student’s school^{1,1}
34 while participating in an athletic activity, shall be immediately
35 removed from the athletic activity by the coach. The student shall
36 not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 6, 2013.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted November 25, 2013.

1 receives written clearance from a licensed physician¹, nurse
2 practitioner, or cardiologist¹.

3 b. A student who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of
4 sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following an athletic
5 activity shall be prohibited from participating in an athletic activity.
6 The student shall not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he
7 is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed
8 physician¹, nurse practitioner, or cardiologist¹.

9 c. ¹**[A]** The board of education of a school district or the
10 governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school,
11 as appropriate, shall ensure that¹ a person who coaches a school
12 district or nonpublic school athletic activity who knowingly violates
13 the provisions of subsections a. or b. of this section shall be:

14 (1) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the
15 remainder of the season for a first violation;

16 (2) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the
17 remainder of the season and the entire next season for a second
18 violation; and

19 (3) permanently suspended from coaching any athletic activity
20 for a third violation.

21

22 5. (New section) ¹**[Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year**
23 **and in each school year thereafter, a]** A¹ person who coaches a
24 school district or nonpublic school athletic activity shall ¹**[complete**
25 **a sudden cardiac arrest prevention program prior to the start of the**
26 **first athletic activity that the person is scheduled to coach. The**
27 **Department of Education shall approve the training provider and**
28 **shall ensure that the prevention program reflects the most current**
29 **information available on the nature, risk, symptoms and early**
30 **warning signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest]**
31 hold a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from
32 the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other
33 training program recognized by the Department of Health¹.

34

35 6. (New section) All nonprofit youth-serving organizations as
36 defined in section 1 of P.L.1999, c.432 (C.15A:3A-1) including, but
37 not limited to, Little Leagues, Babe Ruth Leagues, Pop Warner
38 Leagues, Police Athletic Leagues, and youth soccer leagues, which
39 organize, sponsor, or are otherwise affiliated with youth athletic
40 events, are encouraged to:

41 a. direct the parent or guardian of each child participating in a
42 youth athletic event to the sudden cardiac arrest information posted
43 on the Department of Education's website pursuant to section 1 of
44 P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41); and

45 b. follow the protocol concerning removal-from-play
46 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
47 before the Legislature as this bill) of a child who exhibits symptoms

1 or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest during a youth
2 athletic event, or who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of
3 sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following a youth
4 athletic event.

5

6 ²[7. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
9 Commissioner of Health, the American Heart Association, and the
10 American Academy of Pediatrics, shall develop a pamphlet that
11 provides information about sudden cardiac arrest or death to the
12 parents or guardians of student athletes and shall post the
13 information on the Department of Education's website. The
14 pamphlet shall include: an explanation of sudden cardiac arrest or
15 death **[,];** its incidence among student athletes **[,];** a description of
16 symptoms and early warning signs, including fainting, labored
17 breathing, chest pains, dizziness and abnormal heart rate, and the
18 risks associated with continuing to play or practice after
19 experiencing one or more of the symptoms; **[and]** an overview of
20 the options that are privately available to screen for cardiac
21 conditions that may lead to sudden cardiac arrest or death, including
22 a statement about the limitations of these options; and a form to be
23 signed by the student athlete and his parent or guardian
24 acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet.

25 b. The commissioner shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
26 charge, to all school districts and nonpublic schools in the State **[.**
27 The commissioner **] and** shall update the pamphlet as necessary **[,**
28 and shall make additional copies available to nonpublic schools
29 upon request **].**

30 c. **[In the 2007-2008 school year and in each school year**
31 **thereafter, each]** Each school district and nonpublic school shall
32 distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students
33 participating in **[school sports]** athletic activities.

34 d. A student participating in or desiring to participate in an
35 athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each year
36 and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign
37 and return to the student's school the form developed by the
38 commissioner pursuant to subsection a. of this section
39 acknowledging the receipt and review of the informational
40 pamphlet.

41 e. As used in this section, "athletic activity" means:
42 interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other
43 than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with
44 a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and
45 club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool
46 practice or scrimmage for those activities.

47 (cf: P.L.2012, c.17, s.80) **]²**

1 27. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
4 Commissioner of Health, the American Heart Association, and the
5 American Academy of Pediatrics, shall develop a pamphlet that
6 provides information about sudden cardiac arrest to student-athletes
7 and the parents or guardians of student athletes and shall post the
8 information on the Department of Education's website. The
9 pamphlet shall include: an explanation of sudden cardiac arrest **[.];**
10 its incidence among student athletes **[.];** a description of early
11 warning signs, including fainting, labored breathing, chest pains,
12 dizziness and abnormal heart rate, and the risks associated with
13 continuing to play or practice after experiencing one or more of the
14 symptoms; [and] an overview of the options that are privately
15 available to screen for cardiac conditions that may lead to sudden
16 cardiac arrest, including a statement about the limitations of these
17 options ; and a form to be signed by the student athlete and his
18 parent or guardian acknowledging receipt and review of the
19 pamphlet.

20 b. The commissioner shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
21 charge, to all school districts and nonpublic schools in the State **[.**
22 **The commissioner] and shall update the pamphlet as necessary [,**
23 **and shall make additional copies available to nonpublic schools**
24 **upon request] .**

25 c. **[In the 2007-2008 through the 2012-2013 school years,**
26 **each] Each school district and nonpublic school shall distribute the**
27 **pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students participating in**
28 **[school sports] athletic activities.**

29 d. **[In the 2013-2014 school year and in each subsequent**
30 **school year, a school district shall distribute the pamphlet to each**
31 **student-athlete and to the parents or guardians of student-athletes,**
32 **as part of the student's preparticipation physical examination and**
33 **completion of athletic permission forms. A student-athlete and the**
34 **parent or guardian of the student-athlete shall certify in writing that**
35 **they received and reviewed the pamphlet] A student participating in**
36 **or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's**
37 **parent or guardian shall, each year and prior to participation by the**
38 **student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school**
39 **the form developed by the commissioner pursuant to subsection a.**
40 **of this section acknowledging the receipt and review of the**
41 **informational pamphlet.**

42 e. As used in this section, "athletic activity" means:
43 interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other
44 than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with
45 a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and
46 club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool

1 practice or scrimmage for those activities. ²

2 (cf: P.L.2013, c.71, s.5)

3

4 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

8

9 “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act”; provides student-
10 athletes, parents, and coaches with information on sudden cardiac
11 arrest and establishes protocol concerning removal-from-play for
12 athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

SENATE, No. 2367

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 17, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

“Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act”; provides student-athletes, parents, and coaches with information on sudden cardiac arrest and establishes protocol concerning removal-from-play for athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/12/2013)

1 AN ACT concerning the health of student-athletes, amending
2 P.L.2007, c.125, and supplementing chapter 3A of Title 15A and
3 chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. (New section) Sections 2 through 5 of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and P.L.2007, c.125
10 (C.18A:40-41) shall be known and may be cited as the “Sudden
11 Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.”

12
13 2. (New section) As used in sections 3 through 5 of P.L. ,
14 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), “athletic
15 activity” means: interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or
16 competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored
17 by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school,
18 including cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities; and any
19 practice or interschool practice or scrimmage for those activities.

20
21 3. (New section) A school district or nonpublic school may
22 hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic
23 season for students-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches,
24 athletic trainers, the school physician, school nurses, and other
25 school officials on the nature, risk, symptoms and early warning
26 signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

27
28 4. (New section) a. A student who exhibits symptoms or early
29 warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, as determined by a game
30 official, team coach, athletic trainer, licensed physician, or other
31 official designated by the student’s school while participating in an
32 athletic activity, shall be immediately removed from the athletic
33 activity by the coach. The student shall not be eligible to return to
34 athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance
35 from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or cardiologist.

36 b. A student who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of
37 sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following an athletic
38 activity shall be prohibited from participating in an athletic activity.
39 The student shall not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he
40 is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed
41 physician, nurse practitioner, or cardiologist.

42 c. A person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school
43 athletic activity who knowingly violates the provisions of
44 subsections a. or b. of this section shall be:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

S2367 CODEY, BEACH

1 (1) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the
2 remainder of the season for a first violation;

3 (2) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the
4 remainder of the season and the entire next season for a second
5 violation; and

6 (3) permanently suspended from coaching any athletic activity
7 for a third violation.

8

9 5. (New section) Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year and
10 in each school year thereafter, a person who coaches a school
11 district or nonpublic school athletic activity shall complete a sudden
12 cardiac arrest prevention program prior to the start of the first
13 athletic activity that the person is scheduled to coach. The
14 Department of Education shall approve the training provider and
15 shall ensure that the prevention program reflects the most current
16 information available on the nature, risk, symptoms and early
17 warning signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

18

19 6. (New section) All nonprofit youth-serving organizations as
20 defined in section 1 of P.L.1999, c.432 (C.15A:3A-1) including, but
21 not limited to, Little Leagues, Babe Ruth Leagues, Pop Warner
22 Leagues, Police Athletic Leagues, and youth soccer leagues, which
23 organize, sponsor, or are otherwise affiliated with youth athletic
24 events, are encouraged to:

25 a. direct the parent or guardian of each child participating in a
26 youth athletic event to the sudden cardiac arrest information posted
27 on the Department of Education's website pursuant to section 1 of
28 P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41); and

29 b. follow the protocol concerning removal-from-play
30 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
31 before the Legislature as this bill) of a child who exhibits symptoms
32 or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest during a youth
33 athletic event, or who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of
34 sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following a youth
35 athletic event.

36

37 7. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
40 Commissioner of Health, the American Heart Association, and the
41 American Academy of Pediatrics, shall develop a pamphlet that
42 provides information about sudden cardiac arrest or death to the
43 parents or guardians of student athletes and shall post the
44 information on the Department of Education's website. The
45 pamphlet shall include: an explanation of sudden cardiac arrest or
46 death[,] its incidence among student athletes[,] a description of
47 symptoms and early warning signs, including fainting, labored
48 breathing, chest pains, dizziness and abnormal heart rate, and the

1 risks associated with continuing to play or practice after
2 experiencing one or more of the symptoms; [and] an overview of
3 the options that are privately available to screen for cardiac
4 conditions that may lead to sudden cardiac arrest or death, including
5 a statement about the limitations of these options; and a form to be
6 signed by the student athlete and his parent or guardian
7 acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet.

8 b. The commissioner shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
9 charge, to all school districts and nonpublic schools in the State[.
10 The commissioner] and shall update the pamphlet as necessary[,
11 and shall make additional copies available to nonpublic schools
12 upon request].

13 c. [In the 2007-2008 school year and in each school year
14 thereafter, each] Each school district and nonpublic school shall
15 distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students
16 participating in [school sports] athletic activities.

17 d. A student participating in or desiring to participate in an
18 athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each year
19 and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign
20 and return to the student's school the form developed by the
21 commissioner pursuant to subsection a. of this section
22 acknowledging the receipt and review of the informational
23 pamphlet.

24 e. As used in this section, "athletic activity" means:
25 interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other
26 than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with
27 a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and
28 club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool
29 practice or scrimmage for those activities.

30 (cf: P.L.2012, c.17, s.80)

31

32 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

33

34

35

STATEMENT

36

37 This bill is entitled the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act."
38 The act imposes various requirements designed to: provide student-
39 athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches and other school
40 officials with information concerning the nature and symptoms of
41 sudden cardiac arrest; establish protocols for the removal-from-play
42 of student-athletes who experience symptoms of sudden cardiac
43 arrest while participating in athletic activities or prior to or after
44 such participation; and requires coaches to complete sudden cardiac
45 arrest prevention training. These requirements are applicable to
46 athletic activities that are sponsored by or associated with a school
47 district or nonpublic school, including interscholastic athletics.

1 Under current law, the Commissioner of Education is required to
2 develop a pamphlet that provides the parents and guardians of
3 student-athletes with information about sudden cardiac death. The
4 pamphlet is distributed to each school district in the State. This act
5 makes various changes to that law, including requiring that the
6 pamphlet: includes certain specific symptoms of sudden cardiac
7 arrest; is also distributed to nonpublic schools; and includes a form
8 to be signed by the student-athlete and his parent or guardian
9 acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet. Under the bill,
10 in order to be eligible to participate in an athletic activity, each
11 student-athlete and his parent or guardian must sign the form and
12 return it to his school.

13 The bill also establishes protocols for the removal-from-play of
14 student-athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. A
15 student-athlete who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest
16 while participating in an athletic activity must be immediately
17 removed from the activity by the team coach. A student who
18 exhibits symptoms prior to or after athletic participation is
19 prohibited from such participation. The student will not be eligible
20 to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives
21 written clearance from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or
22 cardiologist. The bill specifies certain penalties for coaches who
23 knowingly violate the removal-from-play protocols.

24 The bill also provides that, beginning with the 2013-2014 school
25 year and in each school year thereafter, a person who coaches a
26 school district or nonpublic school athletic activity must complete a
27 sudden cardiac arrest prevention program which reflects the most
28 current information available on the nature, risk, symptoms and
29 early warning signs, prevention and treatment of sudden cardiac
30 arrest.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2367

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 6, 2013

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2367 with committee amendments.

This bill is entitled the “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.” As amended, the bill imposes various requirements designed to provide student-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches and other school officials with information concerning the nature and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and establish protocols for the removal-from-play of student-athletes who experience symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in athletic activities or prior to or after such participation. These requirements are applicable to athletic activities that are sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school, including interscholastic athletics.

Under current law, the Commissioner of Education is required to develop a pamphlet that provides the parents and guardians of student-athletes with information about sudden cardiac death. The pamphlet is distributed to each school district in the State. This bill makes various changes to that law, including requiring that the pamphlet: includes certain specific symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest; is also distributed to nonpublic schools; and includes a form to be signed by the student-athlete and his parent or guardian acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet. Under the bill, in order to be eligible to participate in an athletic activity, each student-athlete and his parent or guardian must sign the form and return it to his school.

The bill also establishes protocols for the removal-from-play of student-athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. A student-athlete who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in an athletic activity must be immediately removed from the activity by the team coach. A student who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest prior to or after an athletic activity is also prohibited from participating in an athletic activity. The student will not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed physician. The bill specifies that the board of education or the governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, as appropriate, must impose

certain penalties on a coach who violates the removal-from-play protocols.

The bill also provides that a person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school athletic activity must hold a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other training program recognized by the Department of Health.

The committee amended the bill to:

- Provide that an athletic trainer, if one is on site, would be the person who determines whether a student is exhibiting symptoms or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. If no athletic trainer is on site, then the other individuals listed in the bill as introduced would make the determination;
- Provide that only a licensed physician, not a nurse practitioner, could evaluate a student and provide written clearance for a student to return to athletic activity after exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest;
- Clarify that it will be the board of education or the governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, as appropriate, that will enforce the penalties against a coach who violates the return-to-play protocols; and
- Eliminate the provision requiring coaches to complete a sudden cardiac arrest prevention program and instead provide that coaches hold a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2367

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 25, 2013

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2367 (1R) with committee amendments.

This bill is entitled the “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.” As amended, the bill imposes various requirements designed to provide student-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches and other school officials with information concerning the nature and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and establish protocols for the removal-from-play of student-athletes who experience symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in athletic activities or prior to or after such participation. These requirements are applicable to athletic activities that are sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school, including interscholastic athletics.

Under current law, the Commissioner of Education is required to develop a pamphlet that provides student athletes and the parents and guardians of student-athletes with information about sudden cardiac death. The pamphlet is distributed to each school district in the State. This bill makes various changes to that law, including requiring that the pamphlet: be distributed to each nonpublic school; include certain specific symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest; is also distributed to nonpublic schools; and include a form to be signed by the student-athlete and his parent or guardian acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet. Under the bill, in order to be eligible to participate in an athletic activity, each student-athlete and his parent or guardian must sign the form and return it to his school.

The bill also establishes protocols for the removal-from-play of student-athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. A student-athlete who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in an athletic activity must be immediately removed from the activity by the team coach. A student who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest prior to or after an athletic activity is also prohibited from participating in an athletic activity. The student will not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed physician. The bill specifies

that the board of education or the governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, as appropriate, must impose certain penalties on a coach who violates the removal-from-play protocols.

The bill also provides that a person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school athletic activity must hold a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other training program recognized by the Department of Health.

The committee amended the bill to update the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:40-41 (section 7 of the bill) to reflect statutory changes made by the recent enactment of P.L.2013, c.71.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4415, which was also reported by the committee on this same date.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4415

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman TIMOTHY J. EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

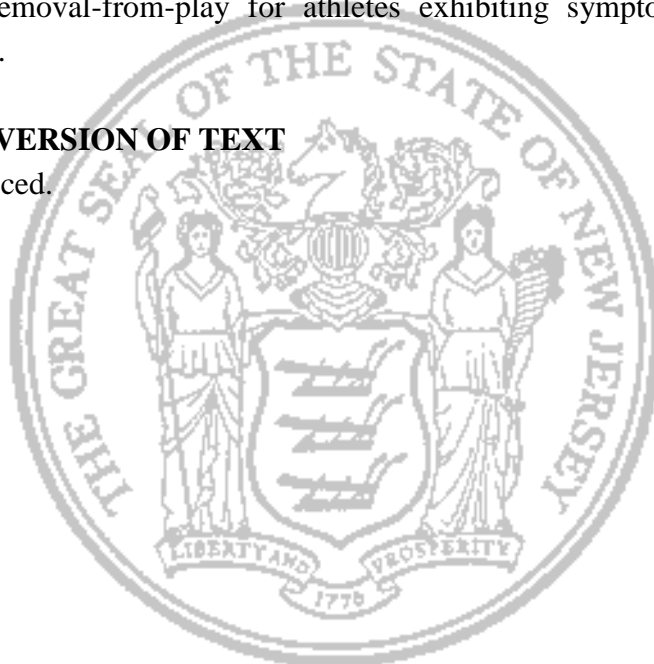
Assemblyman Diegnan and Assemblywoman Pintor Marin

SYNOPSIS

“Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act”; provides student-athletes, parents, and coaches with information on sudden cardiac arrest and establishes protocol concerning removal-from-play for athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2013)

A4415 EUSTACE, JASEY

2

1 AN ACT concerning the health of student athletes, amending
2 P.L.2007, c.125, and supplementing chapter 3A of Title 15A and
3 chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and P.L.2007, c.125
10 (C.18A:40-41) shall be known and may be cited as the “Sudden
11 Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.”

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13 2. (New section) As used in sections 3 through 5 of
14 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
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18 school, including cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities;
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20 activities.

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22 3. (New section) A school district or nonpublic school may
23 hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic
24 season for students-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches,
25 athletic trainers, the school physician, school nurses, and other
26 school officials on the nature, risk, symptoms and early warning
27 signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

28

29 4. (New section) a. A student who exhibits symptoms or early
30 warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, as determined by an athletic
31 trainer if one is on site, or if an athletic trainer is not on site, then a
32 game official, team coach, licensed physician, or other official
33 designated by the student’s school, while participating in an athletic
34 activity, shall be immediately removed from the athletic activity by
35 the coach. The student shall not be eligible to return to athletic
36 activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a
37 licensed physician.

38 b. A student who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of
39 sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following an athletic
40 activity shall be prohibited from participating in an athletic activity.
41 The student shall not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he
42 is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed
43 physician.

44 c. The board of education of a school district or the governing
45 body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, as

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 appropriate, shall ensure that a person who coaches a school district
2 or nonpublic school athletic activity who knowingly violates the
3 provisions of subsections a. or b. of this section shall be:

4 (1) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the
5 remainder of the season for a first violation;

6 (2) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the
7 remainder of the season and the entire next season for a second
8 violation; and

9 (3) permanently suspended from coaching any athletic activity
10 for a third violation.

11

12 5. (New section) A person who coaches a school district or
13 nonpublic school athletic activity shall hold a current certification
14 in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross,
15 American Heart Association, or other training program recognized
16 by the Department of Health.

17

18 6. (New section) All nonprofit youth-serving organizations as
19 defined in section 1 of P.L.1999, c.432 (C.15A:3A-1) including, but
20 not limited to, Little Leagues, Babe Ruth Leagues, Pop Warner
21 Leagues, Police Athletic Leagues, and youth soccer leagues, which
22 organize, sponsor, or are otherwise affiliated with youth athletic
23 events, are encouraged to:

24 a. direct the parent or guardian of each child participating in a
25 youth athletic event to the sudden cardiac arrest information posted
26 on the Department of Education's website pursuant to section 1 of
27 P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41); and

28 b. follow the protocol concerning removal-from-play
29 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
30 before the Legislature as this bill) of a child who exhibits symptoms
31 or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest during a youth
32 athletic event, or who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of
33 sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following a youth
34 athletic event.

35

36 7. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) is amended to
37 read as follows:

38 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
39 Commissioner of Health, the American Heart Association, and the
40 American Academy of Pediatrics, shall develop a pamphlet that
41 provides information about sudden cardiac arrest to student-athletes
42 and the parents or guardians of student athletes and shall post the
43 information on the Department of Education's website. The
44 pamphlet shall include: an explanation of sudden cardiac arrest~~[,]~~;
45 its incidence among student athletes~~[,]~~; a description of early
46 warning signs, including fainting, labored breathing, chest pains,
47 dizziness and abnormal heart rate, and the risks associated with
48 continuing to play or practice after experiencing one or more of the

1 symptoms; [and] an overview of the options that are privately
2 available to screen for cardiac conditions that may lead to sudden
3 cardiac arrest, including a statement about the limitations of these
4 options; and a form to be signed by the student athlete and his
5 parent or guardian acknowledging receipt and review of the
6 pamphlet.

7 b. The commissioner shall distribute the pamphlet, at no
8 charge, to all school districts and nonpublic schools in the State [. The commissioner] and shall update the pamphlet as necessary [, and shall make additional copies available to nonpublic schools upon request].

12 c. [In the 2007-2008 through the 2012-2013 school years, each] Each school district and nonpublic school shall distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students participating in [school sports] athletic activities.

16 d. [In the 2013-2014 school year and in each subsequent school year, a school district shall distribute the pamphlet to each student-athlete and to the parents or guardians of student-athletes, as part of the student's preparticipation physical examination and completion of athletic permission forms. A student-athlete and the parent or guardian of the student-athlete shall certify in writing that they received and reviewed the pamphlet] A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school the form developed by the commissioner pursuant to subsection a. of this section acknowledging the receipt and review of the informational pamphlet.

29 e. As used in this section, "athletic activity" means:
30 interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other
31 than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with
32 a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and
33 club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool
34 practice or scrimmage for those activities.

35 (cf: P.L. 2013, c.71, s.5)

36

37 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

38

39

40

STATEMENT

41

42 This bill is entitled the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act."
43 The bill imposes various requirements designed to provide student-
44 athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches and other school
45 officials with information concerning the nature and symptoms of
46 sudden cardiac arrest and establish protocols for the removal-from-
47 play of student-athletes who experience symptoms of sudden

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1 cardiac arrest while participating in athletic activities or prior to or
2 after such participation. These requirements are applicable to
3 athletic activities that are sponsored by or associated with a school
4 district or nonpublic school, including interscholastic athletics.

5 Under current law, the Commissioner of Education is required to
6 develop a pamphlet that provides the parents and guardians of
7 student-athletes with information about sudden cardiac death. The
8 pamphlet is distributed to each school district and nonpublic school
9 in the State. This bill makes various changes to that law, including
10 requiring that the pamphlet: includes certain specific symptoms of
11 sudden cardiac arrest; and includes a form to be signed by the
12 student-athlete and his parent or guardian acknowledging receipt
13 and review of the pamphlet. Under the bill, in order to be eligible
14 to participate in an athletic activity, each student-athlete and his
15 parent or guardian must sign the form and return it to his school.

16 The bill also establishes protocols for the removal-from-play of
17 student-athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. A
18 student-athlete who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest
19 while participating in an athletic activity must be immediately
20 removed from the activity by the team coach. A student who
21 exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest prior to or after an
22 athletic activity is also prohibited from participating in an athletic
23 activity. The student will not be eligible to return to athletic
24 activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a
25 licensed physician. The bill specifies that the board of education or
26 the governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic
27 school, as appropriate, must impose certain penalties on a coach
28 who violates the removal-from-play protocols.

29 The bill also provides that a person who coaches a school district
30 or nonpublic school athletic activity must hold a current
31 certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from the American
32 Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other training program
33 recognized by the Department of Health.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4415

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 25, 2013

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4415.

This bill is entitled the “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.” The bill imposes various requirements designed to provide student-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches and other school officials with information concerning the nature and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and establish protocols for the removal-from-play of student-athletes who experience symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in athletic activities or prior to or after such participation. These requirements are applicable to athletic activities that are sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school, including interscholastic athletics.

Under current law, the Commissioner of Education is required to develop a pamphlet that provides student athletes and the parents and guardians of student-athletes with information about sudden cardiac death. The pamphlet is distributed to each school district in the State. This bill makes various changes to that law, including requiring that the pamphlet: be distributed to each nonpublic school; include certain specific symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest; is also distributed to nonpublic schools; and include a form to be signed by the student-athlete and his parent or guardian acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet. Under the bill, in order to be eligible to participate in an athletic activity, each student-athlete and his parent or guardian must sign the form and return it to his school.

The bill also establishes protocols for the removal-from-play of student-athletes exhibiting symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. A student-athlete who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in an athletic activity must be immediately removed from the activity by the team coach. A student who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest prior to or after an athletic activity is also prohibited from participating in an athletic activity. The student will not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed physician. The bill specifies that the board of education or the governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, as appropriate, must impose certain penalties on a coach who violates the removal-from-play protocols.

The bill also provides that a person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school athletic activity must hold a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other training program recognized by the Department of Health.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2367 (1R), with Assembly committee amendments, which was also reported by the committee on this same date.