

## HOUSE BILL No. 2659

By Representatives Lynn and Stogsdill

2-9

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1 AN ACT concerning schools; relating to athletic activities; enacting the  
2 sudden cardiac arrest prevention act; requiring the state department of  
3 education and schools to provide information and develop policies to  
4 address sudden cardiac arrest in athletic activities.  
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6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the  
8 sudden cardiac arrest prevention act.

9 (b) As used in this section:

10 (1) "Athletic activity" includes:

11 (A) Interscholastic athletics;

12 (B) an athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic  
13 athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school, including  
14 cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities;

15 (C) noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated  
16 with a school;

17 (D) a practice, interschool practice or scrimmage for any activity  
18 listed in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

19 (2) "School" means any public or accredited nonpublic secondary  
20 school.

21 (c) (1) The state department of education shall develop and publish  
22 on the state department of education's website guidelines and other  
23 relevant materials to inform and educate students participating in or  
24 desiring to participate in an athletic activity, parents and coaches about the  
25 nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks  
26 associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing the  
27 following symptoms: Fainting or seizures during exercise; unexplained  
28 shortness of breath; chest pains; dizziness; racing heart rate; and extreme  
29 fatigue.

30 (2) Each school year and prior to participation in any athletic activity,  
31 a student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity  
32 and such student's parent or guardian shall sign and return to the student's  
33 school an acknowledgment of receipt and review of the sudden cardiac  
34 arrest symptoms and warning sign information developed under this  
35 subsection.

36 (3) Prior to the start of each athletic activity season, a school may

1 hold an informational meeting for all ages of competitors regarding the  
2 symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. Such meetings may  
3 be attended by students, parents, coaches, other school officials,  
4 physicians, pediatric cardiologists and athletic trainers.

5 (d) (1) A student who passes out or faints while participating in or  
6 immediately following an athletic activity, or who is known to have passed  
7 out or fainted while participating in or immediately following an athletic  
8 activity, shall be immediately removed from participation in the athletic  
9 activity by the athletic director, coach or athletic trainer.

10 (2) A student who exhibits any other symptom described in  
11 subsection (c)(1) while participating in an athletic activity may be  
12 removed from participation in the athletic activity by the athletic trainer, if  
13 the athletic trainer reasonably believes that the symptom is cardiac related.  
14 In the absence of an athletic trainer, a coach who observes such other  
15 symptom shall notify the parent or guardian of the student so that the  
16 parent or guardian can determine what treatment, if any, the student should  
17 seek.

18 (3) A student who is removed from participation in an athletic activity  
19 under this subsection shall not be permitted to return to participation in  
20 any athletic activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to  
21 participation in an athletic activity by an appropriate medical professional.

22 (e) (1) Once per school year, each coach of an athletic activity shall  
23 complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course produced by Simon's  
24 heart and made available through the national association of state high  
25 school associations or another provider approved by the state department  
26 of education.

27 (2) A coach of an athletic activity shall not be eligible to coach an  
28 athletic activity until the coach completes the training required under this  
29 subsection.

30 (f) The board of education or governing body of a school shall  
31 establish the following minimum penalties for a coach found in violation  
32 of the requirements of subsection (d)(1) or (e)(1) to be imposed on and  
33 after July 1, 2024:

34 (1) For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic  
35 activity for the remainder of the season when the violation occurred;

36 (2) for a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic  
37 activity for the remainder of the season when the violation occurred and  
38 the following season; and

39 (3) for a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any  
40 athletic activity.

41 (g) A coach shall be immune from civil liability for damages arising  
42 out of action or inaction under this section except for action or inaction  
43 determined to be gross negligence or reckless misconduct.

1       Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
2       publication in the statute book.