

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 620 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY MUTH, KANE, HUGHES, COMITTA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA,
FONTANA, SAVAL AND HAYWOOD, APRIL 11, 2025

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 11, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in grounds and buildings, providing
6 for automated external defibrillator placement, inspection,
7 maintenance and plan; in school health services, further
8 providing for automatic external defibrillators; and, in
9 charter schools, further providing for provisions applicable
10 to charter schools and for applicability of other provisions
11 of this act and of other acts and regulations.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
15 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
16 section to read:

17 Section 743. Automated External Defibrillator Placement,
18 Inspection, Maintenance and Plan.--(a) Beginning in the 2025-
19 2026 school year and each school year thereafter, each school
20 building or facility where children in kindergarten through
21 grade twelve attend school or participate in school-sponsored
22 activities shall have at least one automated external

defibrillator system placed in a central location that is accessible for use. A school entity shall place an automated external defibrillator:

(1) with appropriate signage in accordance with best practices and American Heart Association guidelines on the effective date of this section, including three dimensional signs and arrows, in plain view, leading to and beside the automated external defibrillator;

(2) with instructions for the proper use of the automated external defibrillator at the location of the automated external defibrillator;

(3) in an accessible location during normal school hours and any school-sponsored activities;

(4) in compliance with 42 U.S.C. Ch. 126 (relating to equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities), including placing the automated external defibrillator not more than forty-eight (48) inches above the floor or ground; and

(5) in a location that is no more than one thousand (1,000) feet in distance from a designated member of the cardiac emergency response team under subsection (d) in the school entity's protocol for access to the automated external defibrillator.

(b) For an automated external defibrillator installed before the effective date of this section, a school entity shall register the automated external defibrillator within ten days of the effective date of this section. For an automated external defibrillator installed after the effective date of this section, a school entity shall register the automated external defibrillator immediately upon installation. The school entity shall register the automated external defibrillator with the

1 following:

2 (1) The National AED Registry.

3 (2) The manufacturer of the automated external
4 defibrillator.

5 (3) Local emergency medical services.

6 (c) A school entity shall develop a schedule to inspect an
7 automated external defibrillator in each school building or
8 facility and a standard form for completion as a record of the
9 inspection. The following shall apply:

10 (1) The schedule to inspect shall require the cardiac
11 emergency response plan site coordinator under subsection (e) to
12 inspect the automated external defibrillator in accordance with
13 the manufacturer's guidelines and to visually determine if there
14 is obvious damage indicating that the automated external
15 defibrillator device or cabinet has been compromised. If the
16 inspection indicates that the automated external defibrillator
17 is nonoperational, the cardiac emergency response plan site
18 coordinator shall immediately do all of the following:

19 (i) Notify local emergency medical services, the school
20 building administrator, each cardiac emergency response team
21 member and the students, parents, teachers and staff located in
22 the school building or facility where the automated external
23 defibrillator is located.

24 (ii) Indicate with appropriate signage at the location of
25 the automated external defibrillator that the automated external
26 defibrillator is nonoperational.

27 (iii) Provide instructions with appropriate signage at the
28 location of the automated external defibrillator where the
29 closest operational automated external defibrillator is located.

30 (iv) Order replacement parts, request a loaner automated

external defibrillator and provide notice of the expected date of restoration of the automated external defibrillator.

(2) The cardiac emergency response plan site coordinator shall maintain a record of inspection for an automated external defibrillator. The cardiac emergency response plan site coordinator shall make the record of inspection available to the public at the school entity building or facility where the automated external defibrillator is located and post the record of inspection on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website. The record of inspection shall include, at a minimum, the date when maintenance last occurred or will occur under section 1423(c)(2) and a notation of all of the following data about the automated external defibrillator:

(i) The date of and location of purchase.

(ii) The serial number.

(iii) The warranty expiration date.

(iv) The pad, including the spare pad.

(v) The pad expiration date.

(vi) Whether the replacement of the pad occurred upon inspection.

(vii) The battery expiration date.

(viii) The number of times the automated external defibrillator was used since the last date of inspection.

(ix) Whether the automated external defibrillator is rescue ready as indicated per the manufacturer's guidelines.

(x) Any damage observed or repaired during the inspection of the automated external defibrillator or the automated external defibrillator's case.

(d) A school entity shall develop a protocol for the use of an automated external defibrillator by a trained or untrained

individual to address, at a minimum, the limitation of liability when there is an absence of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct that may arise in connection with a good faith attempt of use or nonuse of the automated external defibrillator. The following shall apply:

(1) The protocol shall include, at a minimum, the development of a cardiac emergency response plan in accordance with subsection (e) and the designation of a cardiac emergency response team in each school building or facility where an automated external defibrillator has been placed.

(2) The certified emergency response team shall be comprised in accordance with the following:

(i) At least ten per centum (10%) of the school personnel located in the same school building or facility as an automated external defibrillator who are certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator shall be on the certified emergency response team. The members shall attain and renew their certifications every two years through the American Health Association, American Red Cross or an equivalent course of instruction approved by the Department of Health. The school entity shall document and make available to the public a record of each member with the date certified, and renewed if applicable, at the school entity building or facility where each member is designated. The school entity shall ensure that an employee certified to use an automated external defibrillator is located in a school building or facility when the school building or facility is in use for educational purposes or school-sponsored activities.

(ii) At least fifteen per centum (15%) of the certified emergency response team shall be school personnel.

1 (iii) Any other employee or person the school entity deems
2 essential to implement the cardiac emergency response plan,
3 provide insight to defects found in the cardiac emergency
4 response plan and respond to critical incidents related to
5 cardiac emergencies.

6 (e) A school entity shall establish a cardiac emergency
7 response plan and designate a cardiac emergency response plan
8 site coordinator. The following shall apply:

9 (1) The school entity shall establish the cardiac emergency
10 response plan in accordance with recommendations by the American
11 Health Association on the effective date of this section and
12 update the plan as the school entity deems necessary. The school
13 entity shall provide a copy of the cardiac emergency response
14 plan to the principal with a signed receipt and post the cardiac
15 emergency response plan on the school entity's publicly
16 accessible Internet website.

17 (2) The cardiac emergency response plan site coordinator
18 shall assist the school entity with adapting to the school
19 entity's needs regarding the cardiac emergency response plan,
20 including a checklist of criteria and procedures. The cardiac
21 emergency response plan site coordinator shall also have the
22 following duties:

23 (i) Annually review the cardiac emergency response plan and
24 submit the findings of the review to the school entity.

25 (ii) Designate members of the cardiac emergency response
26 team in accordance with subsection (d).

27 (iii) Annually verify the certification of cardiac emergency
28 response team members and maintain a database of the certified
29 status of the members in accordance with subsection (d).

30 (iv) Provide cardiac emergency response team members with

information regarding the availability of courses for obtaining or maintaining certified status in accordance with subsection (d).

(v) Plan and schedule a cardiac emergency response drill for the cardiac emergency response team members at least once during the school year. The drill for cardiac emergency response team members shall adhere to the plan and can be scheduled during instructional or professional development time.

(vi) Prepare and submit to the school entity a summary with recommendations after each cardiac emergency response drill.

(vii) Perform inspections and reports as required under this section.

(viii) Maintain records, reports or summary and findings required under this section.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school entity from placing more than one automated external defibrillator in a school building or facility.

(g) If a school building or facility is not required to have an automated external defibrillator and the school entity does not place an automated external defibrillator on every floor of the school building or facility, but has at least one automated external defibrillator centrally located, the school entity shall ensure that the building, facility or floor without an automated external defibrillator has clear and visible signage and directional arrows to the location of the automated external defibrillator in a separate building, facility or floor.

(h) As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Athletic activity." Any of the following:

(1) Interscholastic athletics as defined in section 1602-A.

1 (2) An athletic contest or competition, other than
2 interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated
3 with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored
4 sports activities or sports activities sponsored by school-
5 affiliated organizations.

6 (3) Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or
7 associated with a school entity.

8 (4) Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for an
9 activity listed under clause (1), (2) or (3).

10 "Automated external defibrillator." As defined in section
11 1423(1).

12 "Automated external defibrillator system." An automated
13 external defibrillator and accessories necessary for the
14 automated external defibrillator to detect and interpret an
15 electrocardiogram and deliver an electrical shock, including,
16 but not limited to, a battery, pad electrode, adapter and
17 hardware key for pediatric use.

18 "School building or facility." A building or facility owned
19 by or under the control of a school entity or, in the case of a
20 cyber charter school at each location under its jurisdiction,
21 where classes are taught or extracurricular activities are
22 conducted on a regular basis.

23 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
24 career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter
25 school, regional charter school or multiple charter school
26 organization.

27 "School-sponsored activity." An assembly, graduation
28 ceremony, athletic activity, extracurricular activity, club,
29 group, team or any activity sponsored, held or approved by the
30 school entity whether held during normal school hours or

1 otherwise.

2 Section 2. Section 1423 heading, (a), (b), (c) introductory
3 paragraph, (1) and (3), (d), (g), (g.1), (g.2), (i), (i.1),
4 (i.2), (j) and (l) of the act are amended and the section is
5 amended by adding a subsection to read:

6 Section 1423. [Automatic] Automated External
7 Defibrillators.--(a) The department shall establish an
8 [automatic] automated external defibrillator program to assist
9 school entities and nonpublic schools in making [automatic]
10 automated external defibrillators available in school buildings
11 or facilities.

12 (b) On a biennial basis, the department, in consultation
13 with the Department of General Services and the Department of
14 Health, shall issue an invitation to bid for the cost of
15 [automatic] automated external defibrillators and other
16 equipment and supplies necessary for the proper operation of the
17 device. The department shall accept the bid of the lowest
18 responsible bidder and permit any school entity or nonpublic
19 school to purchase the devices at the contract bid price. The
20 department may purchase [automatic] automated external
21 defibrillators from any funds appropriated pursuant to
22 subsection (k) and, in the absence of funds appropriated
23 pursuant to subsection (k), from funds appropriated to the
24 department for distribution to school entities and nonpublic
25 schools.

26 (c) To be eligible to obtain or purchase [automatic]
27 automated external defibrillators under the program a school
28 entity or nonpublic school must:

29 (1) Assure that [two (2) or more persons] at least ten per
30 centum (10%) of the school personnel assigned to the location

1 where the [automatic] automated external defibrillator will be
2 primarily housed are trained as required in subsection (d).

3 * * *

4 [(3) Submit a valid prescription for the device from a
5 licensed medical practitioner in this Commonwealth.]

6 * * *

7 (d) School personnel who are expected to use the [automatic]
8 automated external defibrillator shall complete training in
9 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and in the use of an [automatic]
10 automated external defibrillator provided by the American Heart
11 Association, the American Red Cross or through an equivalent
12 course of instruction approved by the Department of Health.

13 * * *

14 (g) From funds appropriated for this purpose, or in the
15 absence of funds appropriated for this purpose, from funds
16 appropriated to the department, the department may assist school
17 entities and nonpublic schools that are not equipped with
18 [automatic] automated external defibrillators by providing a
19 discount from the contract bid price obtained under subsection
20 (b) or by providing [automatic] automated external
21 defibrillators obtained under subsection (b).

22 (g.1) The purchase of an [automatic] automated external
23 defibrillator shall be considered an allowable use of
24 Pennsylvania Accountability Grants under section 2599.2(b).

25 (g.2) The purchase of [automatic] automated external
26 defibrillators shall be considered an innovative educational
27 program under Article XVII-F of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,
28 No.2), known as the "Tax Reform Code of 1971."

29 * * *

30 (i) The following shall apply:

1 (1) Not later than June 30, 2014, and each year thereafter
2 through the 2024-2025 school year, each school entity shall make
3 a report to the department detailing the number, condition, age
4 and placement of [automatic] automated external defibrillators
5 in each school building. [After the initial report is made, a
6 school entity may report this information as part of the annual
7 report required by the Commonwealth under section 2505.1 to
8 receive State reimbursement for health services.]

9 (2) Within three months of the effective date of this
10 paragraph, and in each year a school entity removes or obtains
11 an automated external defibrillator, the school entity shall
12 make a report on a form developed by the department under
13 subsection (j.1), to the department detailing the automated
14 external defibrillators in each school building or facility. The
15 report shall include the following information:

- 16 (i) The serial number.
- 17 (ii) The date of purchase.
- 18 (iii) The date of warranty expiration.
- 19 (iv) The date of battery expiration.
- 20 (v) The date of pads expiration.
- 21 (vi) The precise location with identifying physical
22 attribute markers in the vicinity.
- 23 (vii) The total number of automated external defibrillators
24 at the school entity.

25 (3) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each school
26 year thereafter, a school entity shall make an annual report to
27 the department with any date or information deemed necessary by
28 the department, including the following:

- 29 (i) The total number of automated external defibrillators at
30 the school entity.

1 (ii) The number of school buildings or facilities of the
2 school entity that are equipped with automated external
3 defibrillators.

4 (iii) The number of school buildings or facilities of the
5 school entity that are not equipped with automated external
6 defibrillators and an explanation for noncompliance with section
7 743.

8 (iv) The number of school personnel certified to use an
9 automated external defibrillator by the school entity.

10 (v) The number of inspections conducted and findings by the
11 school entity under section 743.

12 (vi) The expiration date of the warranty provided by the
13 manufacturer of each automated external defibrillator used by
14 the school entity.

15 (vii) The expiration date of each automated external
16 defibrillator battery and pads.

17 (viii) The number of times each automated external
18 defibrillator was used for its intended purpose by the school
19 entity.

20 (ix) The precise location of each automated external
21 defibrillator with identifying physical attribute markers in the
22 vicinity.

23 (4) After the initial report to the department is made, a
24 school entity may report the information required under this
25 subsection as part of the annual report required by the
26 Commonwealth to receive State reimbursement for health services
27 under section 2505.1.

28 (i.1) A nonpublic school that participates in the
29 [automatic] automated external defibrillator program under
30 subsection (b) or (g) shall be subject to the reporting required

1 under subsection (i).

2 (i.2) The department shall annually publish a report on its
3 publicly accessible Internet website no later than December 31,
4 2014, and each year thereafter. The report shall contain the
5 following information for each school entity and nonpublic
6 school:

7 (1) The total number of [automatic] automated external
8 defibrillators [by school entity and nonpublic school].

9 (2) The number of school buildings [by school entity and
10 nonpublic school] and facilities that are equipped with
11 [automatic] automated external defibrillators.

12 (3) The number of school buildings [by school entity and
13 nonpublic school] and facilities that are not equipped with
14 [automatic] automated external defibrillators.

15 (4) The number of school personnel trained to use automated
16 external defibrillators.

17 (5) The number of inspections conducted and findings
18 required under section 743.

19 (6) The expiration date of the warranty provided by the
20 manufacturer of each automated external defibrillator.

21 (7) The expiration date of each automated external
22 defibrillator battery and pads.

23 (8) The number of times each automated external
24 defibrillator was used for its intended purpose.

25 (9) The precise location of each automated external
26 defibrillator with identifying physical attribute markers in the
27 vicinity.

28 (10) Any other information required by the department.

29 [(j) The department may adopt guidelines as necessary to
30 administer this section.]

1 (j.1) Within six months of the effective date of this
2 subsection, the department shall develop a standardized form or
3 use a form developed by the National AED Registry for a school
4 entity to complete for the purpose of submitting to the
5 department data and information required under this section,
6 test schedules, inspections and test findings required under
7 section 743 for each automated external defibrillator placed in
8 the school entity's school buildings or facilities and any other
9 data and information deemed necessary by the department. The
10 department shall, in consultation with the Department of Health,
11 adopt guidelines based on best practices and industry standards
12 relating to automated external defibrillator use and programs
13 and any other necessary guidelines to administer this section.
14 The guidelines shall be posted on the department's publicly
15 accessible Internet website and shall be provided to a school
16 entity or nonpublic school on request.

17 * * *

18 (1) As used in this section--

19 ["Automatic] "Automated external defibrillator" means a
20 portable device that uses electric shock to restore a stable
21 heart rhythm to an individual in cardiac arrest.

22 "Department" means the Department of Education of the
23 Commonwealth.

24 "Nonpublic school" means a nonprofit school, other than a
25 public school within this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of
26 this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
27 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
28 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
29 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

30 ["School building" means a building owned by or under the

control of a school entity or nonpublic school where classes are taught or extracurricular activities are conducted on a regular basis.]

"School building or facility" means a building or facility owned by or under the control of a school entity or nonpublic school where classes are taught or school-sponsored activities, athletic or otherwise, are conducted on a regular basis, including a field used for organized athletic events or competitions.

"School-sponsored activity" means an assembly, graduation ceremony, athletics, extracurricular activity, club, group, team or any activity sponsored, held or approved by the school entity or nonpublic school, whether held during normal school hours or otherwise.

"School entity" means an area career and technical school, a charter school, a cyber charter school, an intermediate unit or a school district.

"Secretary" means the Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

Section 3. Section 1732-A(a) of the act is amended to read:

Section 1732-A. Provisions Applicable to Charter Schools.--

(a) Charter schools shall be subject to the following:

Sections 108, 110, 111, 321, 325, 326, 327, 431, 436, 443, 510, 518, 527, 708, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 743, 752, 753, 755, 771, 776, 777, 808, 809, 810, 1109, 1111, 1112(a), 1301, 1310, 1317, 1317.1, 1317.2, 1318, 1326, 1327, 1327.2, 1329, 1330, 1332, 1333, 1333.1, 1333.2, 1333.3, 1303-A, 1513, 1517, 1518, 1521, 1523, 1531, 1547, 2014-A, Article XIII-A and Article XIV.

Act of July 17, 1961 (P.L.776, No.341), known as the

1 "Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act."

2 Act of July 19, 1965 (P.L.215, No.116), entitled "An act
3 providing for the use of eye protective devices by persons
4 engaged in hazardous activities or exposed to known dangers in
5 schools, colleges and universities."

6 Section 4 of the act of January 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546,
7 No.541), entitled "An act providing scholarships and providing
8 funds to secure Federal funds for qualified students of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who need financial assistance to
10 attend postsecondary institutions of higher learning, making an
11 appropriation, and providing for the administration of this
12 act."

13 Act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.765, No.181), entitled "An act
14 relating to drugs and alcohol and their abuse, providing for
15 projects and programs and grants to educational agencies, other
16 public or private agencies, institutions or organizations."

17 Act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1595, No.175), known as the
18 "Antihazing Law."

19 * * *

20 Section 4. Section 1749-A(a)(1) of the act is amended by
21 adding a subparagraph to read:

22 Section 1749-A. Applicability of other provisions of this act
23 and of other acts and regulations.

24 (a) General requirements.--Cyber charter schools shall be
25 subject to the following:

26 (1) The following:

27 * * *

28 (xiv.1) Section 743.

29 * * *

30 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.