



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, local boards of education and sports organizations are not required to adhere to any protocol if a student athlete exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

This bill would create the Tyrell Spencer Act and would require the State Board of Education to adopt certain guidelines to inform and educate student athletes, parents, and coaches about the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

This bill would require each student athlete and his or her parent or guardian to provide written acknowledgment of receipt of information about sudden cardiac arrest before the student athlete may participate in any athletic activity.

This bill would allow for the removal of a student athlete who exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest from an athletic activity, and would prohibit the student athlete from returning to the athletic activity until a licensed physician provides written clearance for his or her return.

This bill would require each coach of an athletic activity to receive training relating to sudden cardiac arrest every two years provided by the Alabama High School Athletic Association and Alabama



29 Independent School Association and approved by the
30 State Board of Education, and would require the
31 training to be coordinated with existing training
32 relating to CPR and automated external defibrillators
33 (AEDs).

34 This bill would prohibit a coach from coaching
35 until the training is complete.

36 This bill would also encourage the availability
37 of an AED near all athletic activities.

38

39

40

41

A BILL

42

TO BE ENTITLED

43

AN ACT

44

45 Relating to K-12 school sports; to create the Tyrell
46 Spencer Act; to require coaches to undergo training and follow
47 all health and safety guidelines related to sudden cardiac
48 arrest; to require the training to be coordinated with
49 existing training requirements related to CPR and automated
50 external defibrillators (AEDs); to require the State Board of
51 Education to approve training requirements and adopt
52 guidelines and information sheets regarding sudden cardiac
53 arrest and distribute those information sheets to student
54 athletes, parents, and coaches; to authorize the Alabama High
55 School Athletic Association and the Alabama Independent School
56 Association to provide the training; to allow for the removal



57 from play of student athletes who exhibit symptoms of sudden
58 cardiac arrest; to require student athletes and parents to
59 acknowledge receipt of informational materials related to
60 sudden cardiac arrest; and to encourage AED availability.

61 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

62 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
63 the Tyrell Spencer Act.

64 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
65 terms have the following meanings:

66 (1) AHSAA. The Alabama High School Athletic
67 Association.

68 (2) AISA. The Alabama Independent School Association.

69 (3) ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.

70 a. This term includes any of the following activities:

71 1. Interscholastic athletics at any school.

72 2. Any athletic contest or competition other than
73 interscholastic athletics that is sponsored by or associated
74 with a school, including club-sponsored sports activities.

75 3. Competitive or noncompetitive cheerleading that is
76 sponsored by or associated with a school.

77 4. Any practices, including interscholastic practices
78 or scrimmages for any activities listed in this subdivision.

79 b. This term does not include any recreational sports
80 activity that is not associated with a school, including a
81 city or county recreational youth sports league.

82 (4) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

83 (5) SCHOOL. Any public or private K-12 school.

84 (6) STUDENT ATHLETE. A student who is enrolled in a



85 K-12 school and participates in any athletic activity.

86 Section 3. (a) The board shall adopt guidelines to
87 inform and educate student athletes, parents, and coaches
88 about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest,
89 including the risks associated with continuing to participate
90 in or practice an athletic activity after experiencing
91 symptoms, as outlined by the required training.

92 (b) The board shall develop a cardiac arrest symptoms
93 and warning signs information sheet to be provided to each
94 student athlete participating in an athletic activity.
95 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, before any student
96 athlete may participate in any athletic activity, the student
97 athlete and his or her parent or guardian shall sign and
98 return to the student athlete's school an acknowledgement form
99 acknowledging their receipt and review of the information
100 sheet. The acknowledgment form shall be developed by the AHSAA
101 for its member schools and the AISA for its member schools. As
102 part of the student athlete's eligibility requirements, a new
103 acknowledgment form shall be signed and returned to the
104 applicable school at the beginning of each school year in
105 which the student athlete intends to participate in an
106 athletic activity. Each acknowledgment form shall be kept in
107 the school's online eligibility software program.

108 (c) In developing guidelines and materials, the board
109 may use educational materials created by Simon's Heart for the
110 purpose of educating student athletes, parents, and coaches
111 about sudden cardiac arrest.

112 (d) The board, the AHSAA, and the AISA shall post any



113 guidelines or materials developed pursuant to this act on the
114 publicly accessible website of the entity.

115 Section 4. Each local board of education may hold an
116 informational meeting for student athletes, parents, coaches,
117 and other school officials prior to the start of each athletic
118 season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden
119 cardiac arrest. Informational meetings may include, but are
120 not limited to, presentations from physicians, pediatric
121 cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

122 Section 5. (a) (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school
123 year, once every two years, each coach of any athletic
124 activity shall complete a cardiac arrest training course
125 provided by the AHSAA for its member schools and by the AISA
126 for its member schools. The training shall be approved by the
127 board, and, if the board chooses, may include the course
128 produced by Simon's Heart and made available through the
129 National Federation of State High School Associations.

130 (2) The training shall be in correlation with any other
131 training required by the relevant school association related
132 to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external
133 defibrillators (AEDs).

134 (b) A coach of any athletic activity may not be
135 eligible to coach in any practice or competition until he or
136 she has completed the training course required under this
137 section.

138 Section 6. (a) An athletic trainer, coach, or other
139 responsible party may remove any student athlete who, during
140 any athletic activity, exhibits any symptoms identifiable by



141 the required training if the trainer, coach, or other
142 responsible party reasonably believes that the student
143 athlete's symptoms are cardiac related. If a student athlete
144 is removed from an athletic activity for the reason described
145 in this subsection, an athletic trainer, coach, or other
146 responsible party who observed the student athlete exhibit the
147 symptoms shall attempt to notify the student athlete's parent
148 or guardian of those symptoms.

149 (b) A student athlete who is removed from participation
150 in an athletic activity pursuant to this section may not be
151 permitted to return to play until he or she has been evaluated
152 by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to
153 return to play from the licensed physician.

154 Section 7. The sponsors of recreational youth athletic
155 activities are encouraged, but not required, to follow the
156 guidelines provided in this act.

157 Section 8. The Legislature encourages the availability
158 of an automated external defibrillator (AED) within three
159 minutes retrieval time at any athletic activity.

160 Section 9. This act shall become effective on the first
161 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
162 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.