

By: Representative McCarty

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1548  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETIC  
2 EVENTS, INCLUDING SCHOOL BOARDS, AND OPERATORS OF INDEPENDENT  
3 CHARTER SCHOOLS, TO SUPPORT, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A CARDIAC  
4 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN THAT INTEGRATES EVIDENCE BASED CORE  
5 ELEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S  
6 GUIDELINES OR ANOTHER NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, EVIDENCE BASED  
7 STANDARD; TO EXEMPT SCHOOLS FROM THE PREREQUISITE THAT A  
8 MISSISSIPPI LICENSED PHYSICIAN MUST EXERCISE MEDICAL CONTROL  
9 AUTHORITY OVER THE PERSON USING AN AED; TO REQUIRE THAT ANY PERSON  
10 USING AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR MUST USE A FDA APPROVED  
11 DEVICE TO ASSURE THE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY OF THE DEVICE; TO  
12 AMEND SECTION 41-60-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO  
13 THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

15 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, the following terms and  
16 phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 (a) "Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)" is a  
19 written document that establishes the specific steps to reduce  
20 death from cardiac arrest in any setting, be it a school,  
21 community organization, workplace or sports facility.

22 (b) "Automated External Defibrillator (AED)" is a  
23 lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock



24 through the chest to the heart. The shock can potentially stop an  
25 irregular heartbeat, known as arrhythmia, and allow a normal  
26 rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest.

27 (c) "Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)" occurs when the heart  
28 malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly. If not treated within  
29 minutes, it quickly leads to death.

30 **SECTION 2.** (1) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each  
31 public school shall develop a cardiac emergency response plan  
32 (CERP) that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to  
33 respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden  
34 cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on  
35 school grounds.

36 (2) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each public  
37 school with an athletic department or organized athletic program  
38 shall develop a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the  
39 appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents  
40 involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a  
41 similar life-threatening emergency while attending or  
42 participating in an athletic practice or event while on school  
43 grounds.

44 (3) School officials shall work directly with local  
45 emergency service providers to integrate the CERP into the  
46 community's EMS responder protocols. Each plan shall integrate  
47 evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the



48 American Heart Association's guidelines or another nationally  
49 recognized, evidence-based standard.

50 (4) The CERP shall integrate, at a minimum, the following  
51 guidelines:

- 52 (a) Establishing a cardiac emergency response team;
- 53 (b) Activating the team in response to a SCA;
- 54 (c) A plan for implementing AED placement and routine  
55 maintenance within the school;
- 56 (d) Disseminating the plan throughout the school  
57 campus;
- 58 (e) Maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR/AED use;
- 59 (f) Practicing using drills annually;
- 60 (g) Integrating local EMS with the plan; and
- 61 (h) Ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the  
62 plan.

63 (5) Appropriate AED placement shall be dictated by the CERP  
64 and in accordance with guidelines set by the American Heart  
65 Association or another nationally recognized, evidence-based  
66 standard. A school or local and regional board of education may  
67 accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations  
68 designated for the purchase of an AED that meets the standards  
69 established by the United States Food and Drug Administration and  
70 for the costs incurred to inspect and maintain such device and  
71 train staff in the use of such device.



72 (6) Appropriate school staff shall be trained in first-aid,  
73 CPR, and AED use that follow evidence-based guidelines set forth  
74 by the American Heart Association or another nationally  
75 recognized, evidence-based standard. Staff trained shall be  
76 determined by the CERP, including, but not limited, to licensed  
77 coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers.

78 **SECTION 3.** A school district, school district employee or  
79 agent acting in good faith who provides assistance or services  
80 under this act shall be immune from civil prosecution and shall  
81 not be liable in any action for civil damages in his or her  
82 individual, marital, governmental, corporate or other capacity as  
83 a result of the services provided under this act.

84 **SECTION 4.** All public and charter schools will be exempt  
85 from Section 41-60-33, which defines the prerequisite that a  
86 Mississippi licensed physician must exercise medical control  
87 authority over the person using an AED.

88 **SECTION 5.** Section 41-60-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
89 amended as follows:

90 41-60-33. Except as otherwise exempted by Section 4 of this  
91 act, any person may use an automated external defibrillator for  
92 the purpose of saving the life of another person in sudden cardiac  
93 death, subject to the following requirements:

94 (a) A Mississippi licensed physician must exercise  
95 medical control authority over the person using the AED to ensure



96 compliance with requirements for training, emergency medical  
97 services (EMS) notification and maintenance;

98 (b) The person using the AED must have received  
99 appropriate training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in  
100 the use of an AED by the American Heart Association, American Red  
101 Cross, National Safety Council or other nationally recognized  
102 course in CPR and AED use;

103 (c) The AED must not operate in a manual mode except  
104 when access control devices are in place or when appropriately  
105 licensed individuals such as registered nurses, physicians or  
106 emergency medical technician-paramedics utilize the AED; and

107 (d) Any person who renders emergency care or treatment  
108 on a person in sudden cardiac death by using an AED must activate  
109 the EMS system as soon as possible, and report any clinical use of  
110 the AED to the licensed physician.

111 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
112 and after July 1, 2024.

