

By: Representative McCarty

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1548

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;
- 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.

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



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

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

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

85 41-60-33. Except as otherwise exempted by Section 4 of this
86 act, any person may use an automated external defibrillator for
87 the purpose of saving the life of another person in sudden cardiac
88 death, subject to the following requirements:

89 (a) A Mississippi licensed physician must exercise
90 medical control authority over the person using the AED to ensure
91 compliance with requirements for training, emergency medical
92 services (EMS) notification and maintenance;

93 (b) The person using the AED must have received
94 appropriate training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in
95 the use of an AED by the American Heart Association, American Red
96 Cross, National Safety Council or other nationally recognized
97 course in CPR and AED use;



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

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

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

