
DIGEST

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HB No. 542

Abstract: Requires instruction relative to CPR and automated external defibrillators to be integrated into the curriculum of an existing required course of study in public high schools.

Proposed law requires the governing authorities of public schools enrolling students in grades nine through 12 to provide instruction relative to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Requires the integration of such instruction into the curriculum of an existing required course, such as health education, physical education, or another required course deemed appropriate by the school governing authority and requires the instruction to include the following:

- (1) An instructional program developed by the American Heart Assoc. (AHA) or the American Red Cross (ARC) or that is nationally recognized and based on the most current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for CPR and AED.
- (2) Hands-on training for students relative to the psychomotor skills necessary to perform CPR.

Authorizes public school governing authorities to partner with emergency medical technicians, paramedics, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, police officers, deputy sheriffs, or firefighters, each of whom must be currently licensed, certified, or commissioned according to his respective occupation in order to participate in providing such instruction, as well as representatives of the AHA or ARC or other similarly qualified individuals. Provides that a classroom teacher is not required to be a certified trainer of CPR to facilitate, provide, or oversee this instruction.

Prohibits the instruction required by proposed law to result in the certification of students in CPR or the use of an AED. Should a school governing authority provide, separate and apart from the instruction required by proposed law, a training program intended to result in such certification, requires that the instructor be authorized to provide instruction for certification by the AHA, ARC, or a similar nationally recognized association. Further requires a school governing authority to obtain parental consent prior to the certification of any student under the age of 18 through such a training program.

Provides that the physical presence of an AED in the classroom is not required and that the

instruction need only provide general information on the use and importance of automated external defibrillators.

Requires public school governing authorities to adopt rules and regulations necessary for proposed law implementation and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a procedure to monitor the compliance of public school governing authorities with proposed law. Proposed law is applicable to all public schools enrolling students in grades nine through 12, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(X) and 3996(B)(34))