

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 379

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to information for prevention of sudden cardiac arrest
3 affecting public school students participating in interscholastic
4 athletics.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 38.0182 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 38.0182. INFORMATION FOR PREVENTION OF SUDDEN CARDIAC
9 ARREST AFFECTING STUDENT ATHLETES. (a) In this section, "parent"
10 includes a guardian or other person with legal authority to make
11 medical decisions for a student.

12 (b) This section applies to an interscholastic athletic
13 activity, including practice and competition, sponsored or
14 sanctioned by:

15 (1) a school district, including a home-rule school
16 district, or a public school, including any school for which a
17 charter has been granted under Chapter 12; or

18 (2) the University Interscholastic League.

19 (c) The agency and the Department of State Health Services
20 jointly shall develop guidelines and other relevant materials, in
21 accordance with this section, to educate students, parents, and
22 coaches, including assistant coaches, regarding sudden cardiac
23 arrest, including:

24 (1) warning signs and symptoms, including:

- 1 (A) fainting;
- 2 (B) difficulty breathing;
- 3 (C) chest pains;
- 4 (D) dizziness; and
- 5 (E) abnormal racing heart rate; and

6 (2) risks associated with continuing athletic
7 activity after experiencing a warning sign or symptom of sudden
8 cardiac arrest.

9 (d) In developing the guidelines and other materials under
10 Subsection (c), the agency and the Department of State Health
11 Services may use existing materials developed by an organization
12 with recognized expertise regarding sudden cardiac arrest.

13 (e) The agency and the Department of State Health Services
14 each shall post on the applicable agency's Internet website the
15 guidelines and other materials developed under Subsection (c).

16 (f) A student may not participate in an interscholastic
17 athletic activity for a school year until both the student and the
18 student's parent have signed a form for that school year that
19 acknowledges receiving and reading written information that:

20 (1) explains sudden cardiac arrest warning signs and
21 symptoms; and

22 (2) is consistent with the information in the
23 materials developed under Subsection (c).

24 (g) The form required under Subsection (f) must be approved
25 by the University Interscholastic League.

26 SECTION 2. Section 38.0182, Education Code, as added by
27 this Act, applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.