

By: Lalani, VanDeaver, et al.

H.B. No. 850

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 850:

By: Buckley

C.S.H.B. No. 850

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to emergency cardiovascular care at public schools and certain private schools in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22.902(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Each school nurse, assistant school nurse, athletic coach or sponsor, physical education instructor, marching band director, cheerleading coach, and any other school employee specified by the commissioner and each student who serves as an athletic trainer must participate in the instruction in the use of an automated external defibrillator. A person described by this subsection must receive and maintain certification in the use of an automated external defibrillator from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or a similar nationally recognized, guidelines-based organization focused on emergency cardiovascular care ~~[association]~~.

SECTION 2. Section 38.017(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each school district shall make available at each campus in the district the number of ~~[at least one]~~ automated external defibrillators ~~[defibrillator]~~, as defined by Section 779.001, Health and Safety Code, necessary for a defibrillator to be accessible from any location on campus so that a person may provide

1 emergency care to a person in cardiac arrest within three minutes of
2 being notified of a possible medical emergency involving cardiac
3 arrest. A campus defibrillator must be readily available during
4 any University Interscholastic League athletic competition held on
5 the campus. In determining the placement of [~~location at which to~~
6 ~~store~~] a campus defibrillator, the principal of the campus shall
7 consider the guidelines from the American Heart Association or
8 another organization with expertise in emergency cardiovascular
9 care and ensure that the defibrillator is clearly marked [~~primary~~
10 ~~location on campus where students engage in athletic activities~~].

11 SECTION 3. Section [38.018](#), Education Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 38.018. [~~PROCEDURES REGARDING RESPONSE TO~~] CARDIAC
14 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN [~~ARREST~~]. (a) Each school district and
15 private school shall develop and implement a cardiac emergency
16 response plan that establishes safety procedures for a district or
17 school employee or other appropriate personnel [~~student~~] to follow
18 in responding to a medical emergency involving cardiac arrest on
19 district or school grounds [~~, including the appropriate response~~
20 ~~time in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation, using an~~
21 ~~automated external defibrillator, as defined by Section [779.001](#),~~
22 ~~Health and Safety Code, or calling a local emergency medical~~
23 ~~services provider~~].

24 (b) In developing the plan, the district or school shall:

25 (1) work directly with local emergency services
26 providers to integrate the plan with the providers' protocols; and

27 (2) incorporate evidence-based practices, such as the

1 American Heart Association's core elements for cardiac emergency
2 response plans.

3 (c) The plan must include at a minimum:

4 (1) the establishment of a cardiac emergency response
5 team;

6 (2) procedures for activating the cardiac emergency
7 response team in response to a medical emergency involving cardiac
8 arrest;

9 (3) the dissemination of the plan throughout each
10 district or school campus;

11 (4) ongoing training in first aid, cardiopulmonary
12 resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, as
13 defined by Section 779.001, Health and Safety Code, using
14 evidence-based guidelines, for appropriate district or school
15 employees, including school coaches, school nurses, and athletic
16 trainers;

17 (5) annual practice drills in responding to a medical
18 emergency involving cardiac arrest; and

19 (6) annual review, evaluation, and, if necessary,
20 modification of the plan.

21 (d) A private school is required to develop a cardiac
22 emergency response plan ~~[safety procedures]~~ under this section only
23 if the school receives an automated external defibrillator from the
24 agency or receives funding from the agency to purchase or lease an
25 automated external defibrillator.

26 (e) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to
27 award grants to districts and schools to assist with the

1 implementation of a cardiac emergency response plan. In awarding
2 grants, the commissioner shall prioritize districts or schools at
3 which at least 50 percent of enrolled students are educationally
4 disadvantaged.

5 SECTION 4. Not later than the first instructional day of the
6 2027-2028 school year, each public school and private school to
7 which Sections 38.017 and 38.018, Education Code, as amended by
8 this Act, apply shall make available the number of automatic
9 external defibrillators and implement a cardiac emergency response
10 plan as required by those sections.

11 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.