

Date of Hearing: July 7, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
SB 722 (Melendez) – As Amended June 28, 2021

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Interscholastic athletics: adult supervisors: cardiopulmonary resuscitation training

SUMMARY: Requires, if a school district or charter school elects to sponsor or host an event, at least one adult with a valid certification of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to be present throughout the duration of the event. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Requires, if a school district or charter school elects to sponsor or host an event, at least one adult with a valid certification of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training to be present throughout the duration of the event.
- 2) States that an adult with CPR training, as mandated by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) coaching education program requirements, would satisfy this requirement.
- 3) Defines “event” to mean any school-sponsored recreational on-campus activity involving pupils, spectators, and any other individuals in attendance.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires a coach of an athletic activity to complete the coach’s sudden cardiac arrest training course and to retake the training course every two years thereafter. States that a coach of an athletic activity shall not be eligible to coach an athletic activity until the coach completes the training course required. (EC 33479.6)
- 2) Commencing July 1, 2019, for a school district or charter school that elects to offer any interscholastic athletic program:
 - a) Requires the school district or charter school to acquire at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) for each school within the school district or the charter school.
 - b) Requires the school district or charter school ensure that the AED or AEDs are available to athletic trainers and coaches and authorized persons at these activities or events.
 - c) Requires the school district or charter school to ensure that its AED or AEDs are maintained and regularly tested according to the operation and maintenance guidelines set forth by the manufacturer, the American Heart Association, or the American Red Cross, and according to any applicable rules and regulations set forth by the governmental authority under the federal Food and Drug Administration and any other applicable state and federal authority.
 - d) Encourages the school district or the charter school to ensure that the AED or AEDs are available for the purpose of rendering emergency care or treatment within a recommended three to five minutes of sudden cardiac arrest to pupils, spectators, and any

other individuals in attendance at the athletic program's on-campus activities or events.
(EC 35179.6)

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill could result in significant costs for LEAs to have qualified personnel available at school events which as currently drafted, is broadly defined to include all recreational events on school campuses and not limited to sports. Assuming each school would need to provide CPR training for two additional staff at a rate of \$70 to \$100 each, statewide costs would range from about \$1.5 million to \$2.1 million every two years. However, to the extent that schools already have sufficient staff such as athletic coaches that are qualified, these costs could be lower. Staff notes that the bill's requirement to have qualified personnel at school events would stem from a discretionary decision to offer such events and would not likely constitute a reimbursable state mandate. Therefore, local school districts would need to absorb these costs within existing resources.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, "On June 3, 2016, a 13-year old boy by the name of Alex Pierce was at a school sponsored end of the year pool party at Vista Murrieta High School. The wrongful death lawsuit between the Murrieta Valley Unified School District and the family was eventually settled. The boy was underwater for approximately two minutes according to court documents and no one administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on him before paramedics arrived. I have been working with the Pierce family since their son died on a bill that would prevent future children from suffering the same tragedy. This measure has enjoyed bipartisan and unanimous support, as did the previous iteration. This version seeks to address the Governor's concerns outlined in his veto message of AB 1214, by providing flexibility for school districts and schools while keeping our children safe. SB 722 simply requires an adult employed by the school with a current CPR training certification to be present at a school sponsored event."

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). According to the American Heart Association, "CPR is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest. Keeping the blood flow active – even partially – extends the opportunity for a successful resuscitation once trained medical staff arrive on site.

In one year alone, 475,000 Americans die from a cardiac arrest. Globally, cardiac arrest claims more lives than colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, influenza, pneumonia, auto accidents, HIV, firearms, and house fires combined. More than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital each year. In 2015, any-mention sudden cardiac arrest mortality in the US was 366,807. About 90 percent of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest die."

The American Heart Association and American Red Cross establish standards for CPR that are regularly updated. Most CPR certifications are valid for two years.

Coaches and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) regulations. State law requires and CIF regulations state, that all CIF member schools ensure that all coaches, paid and unpaid, have completed a coaching education program that emphasizes the following components:

- Development of coaching philosophies consistent with school, school district and school board goals.
- Sport psychology: emphasizing communication; reinforcement of young people's efforts; effective delivery of coaching regarding technique and motivation of the student-athlete.
- Sport pedagogy: how young athletes learn and how to teach sport skills.
- Sport physiology: principles of training; fitness for sport; development of a training program; nutrition for athletes; and the harmful effects associated with the use of steroids and performance-enhancing dietary supplements by adolescents.
- Sport management: team management; risk management; and working within the context of an entire school program.
- Training: *certification in CPR* and First Aid that includes training in signs and symptoms of concussions, sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), and heat illness.

CPR certificates for teaching and services credential holders. In order to apply for a valid clear teaching or services credential in California, an applicant must have completed a course in CPR that meets or exceeds the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. Upon credential renewal, credential holders are not required to retake their CPR course completion. ***The Committee may wish to consider*** that in most cases, a CPR course certification is valid for two years, but a teaching and services credential is valid for 5 years.

Arguments in support. The American Academy of Pediatrics, California states, "According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Drowning Prevention Toolkit, 'Drowning is the single-leading cause of death among children aged 1-4, and a top cause of death among teens.' In a May 2019 policy statement, the AAP further stated, 'Immediate resuscitation at the submersion site, even before the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, is the most effective means to improve outcomes in the event of a drowning incident. Prompt initiation of bystander CPR, with a focus on airway and rescue breathing before compressions and activation of prehospital advanced cardiac life support for the pediatric submersion victim, have the greatest impact on survival and prognosis.' Other potentially fatal medical emergencies that could occur in an ordinary classroom setting can be caused by asthma, diabetes, seizure disorders, cardiac arrest, and severe allergic reactions. According to the American Heart Association, CPR can double or triple the chance of survival in these cases if performed immediately.

Full CPR certification requires that the training be repeated every two years. This is intended to keep the trainee's skills fresh and present in their minds so that they can perform the needed intervention properly, and have confidence during a crisis. Currently, California teachers are only required to complete CPR a single time. SB 722 would ensure that there would be at least one adult supervisor with a valid CPR certification at every school event to help keep children safe and give them the best outcome if tragedy should strike."

Recommended Committee Amendments. ***Staff recommends that the bill be amended*** to require that a school district or charter school have an adult with CPR certification present if they host an

on campus event in or around a swimming pool, that is not part of an interscholastic athletic program.

Related legislation. AB 1214 (Melendez) of the 2019 Session would have required a local educational agency (LEA) to offer a course in CPR for school staff. The Governor vetoed the bill with the following message:

While I support efforts to ensure the safety of students involved in local activities, the requirements of this bill exceed that goal and create new, potentially significant costs for LEAs by requiring them to make CPR training available to all school staff rather than only the staff involved with the interscholastic athletic programs. For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

AB 1766 (Maienschein) Chapter 270, Statutes of 2018, requires public swimming pools, as defined, that are required to provide lifeguard services and that charge a direct fee to additionally provide an AED during pool operations. Also requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with the California Department of Public Health, to issue best practices guidelines related to pool safety at K–12 schools.

AB 2009 (Maienschein) Chapter 646, Statutes of 2018, requires school districts or charter schools that choose to offer any interscholastic athletic program to ensure that there is a written emergency action plan in place that describes the location and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest and other medical emergencies related to the athletic program's activities or events. The written emergency action plan must be posted in compliance with the most recent pertinent guidelines of the National Federation of State High School Associations. Further requires the school districts or charter schools to acquire at least one AED for each school within the school district or the charter school.

AB 1719 (Rodriguez) Chapter 556, Statutes of 2016, requires school districts and charter schools that require a course in health education for graduation from high school to include instruction in performing compression-only CPR. Requires the CDE to provide guidance on how to implement these provisions, including, but not limited to, who may provide instruction. Provides that a local agency, entity of state or local government, or other public or private organization that sponsors, authorizes, supports, finances, or supervises, and a public employee who provides or facilitates, the instruction of pupils in compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation or the use of an AED pursuant to the bill will not be liable for any civil damages alleged to result from the acts or omissions of an individual who received such instruction.

SB 658 (Hill) Chapter 264, Statutes of 2015, requires, when an AED is placed in a public or private K–12 school, the principal to ensure that the school administrators and staff annually receive information that describes sudden cardiac arrest, the school's emergency response plan, and the proper use of an AED. Further requires the principal to also ensure that instructions, in no less than 14-point type, on how to use the AED are posted next to every AED. The principal must, at least annually, notify school employees as to the location of all AED units on the campus.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Red Cross California Chapter
California Society for Respiratory Care
California State Pta
Consumer Attorneys of California
Riverside County Office of Education

Opposition

None on file

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