

Senate Bill 818

Sponsored by Senator MONNES ANDERSON; Senators BATES, ROBLAN, Representatives GELSER, KENY-GUYER, LIVELY, THOMPSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires school district boards to adopt policy related to cardiac incidents.
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the safety of student athletes; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas commotio cordis is a potentially fatal cardiac arrhythmia that occurs when there is a
4 sudden, often innocuous-appearing blow to the chest that disrupts the electrical rhythm of an oth-
5 erwise normal heart; and

6 Whereas commotio cordis is usually related to a blow from a firm projectile, such as a baseball,
7 lacrosse ball, softball or hockey puck; and

8 Whereas commotio cordis is the leading cause of traumatic death in youth baseball and is the
9 third leading cause of sudden cardiac death in all young athletes; and

10 Whereas youth deaths from commotio cordis exceed deaths from all sport-related head injuries
11 combined; and

12 Whereas the survival rate following commotio cordis can greatly increase as the result of the
13 early use of an automated external defibrillator that can restore a normal heart rhythm; and

14 Whereas, despite clear evidence that early recognition, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
15 early use of an automated external defibrillator carry a high likelihood of successful treatment,
16 relatively low public awareness of this condition often results in delayed response and a higher in-
17 cidence of fatalities; and

18 Whereas the risk of commotio cordis can be reduced through simple interventions, such as ed-
19 ucation to avoid direct blows to the breastbone, improved recognition and prompt resuscitation with
20 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and an automated external defibrillator, and increased availability
21 of medical personnel at youth sporting venues; now, therefore,

22 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

23 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

24 **(a) "Coach" means a person who instructs or trains members of a school athletic team,**
25 **as identified by criteria established by the State Board of Education by rule.**

26 **(b) "High-risk sport" includes baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, soccer, ice hockey,**
27 **martial arts and any other sport identified by the State Board of Education by rule as being**
28 **a sport in which there is a high risk of a blow to the chest that could cause cardiac**
29 **arrhythmia.**

30 **(2) Each school district board shall adopt a policy related to cardiac incidents. The policy**
31 **shall:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) Require that information about cardiac arrhythmia caused by a blow to the chest be
2 provided annually to coaches of high-risk sports, parents of student athletes participating in
3 high-risk sports and student athletes participating in high-risk sports prior to the first
4 practice of the season for each sport. The information must include:

5 (A) The most common situations in which cardiac arrhythmia might be caused by a blow
6 to the chest;

7 (B) Symptoms and other warning signs that a person is experiencing cardiac arrhythmia
8 caused by a blow to the chest; and

9 (C) Suggested actions to take when a person is experiencing cardiac arrhythmia caused
10 by a blow to the chest; and

11 (b) Provide for an emergency action plan that outlines core expectations for evaluation
12 and management of suspected episodes of cardiac arrhythmia caused by a blow to the chest.
13 The emergency action plan must include:

14 (A) The requirement that at least one person, who is aware of the action plan and is
15 knowledgeable of its implementation, be present at each athletic event or practice of a
16 high-risk sport; and

17 (B) Instructions for reporting to a national registry episodes of cardiac arrhythmia
18 caused by a blow to the chest.

19 **SECTION 2.** This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
20 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect
21 July 1, 2013.

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