ACT #2023 - 235

1 TBNP55-3
2 By Representative Gray
3 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy
4 First Read: 07-Mar-23
5 PFD: 23-Feb-23
6 2023 Regular Session
HB45 Enrolled

1 *Enrolled*, An Act,

2

3 Relating to K-12 school sports; to create the *Tyrell Spencer Act*; to require coaches to undergo training and follow all health and safety guidelines related to sudden cardiac arrest; to require the training to be coordinated with existing training requirements related to CPR and automated external defibrillators (AEDs); to require the State Board of Education to approve training requirements and adopt guidelines and information sheets regarding sudden cardiac arrest and distribute those information sheets to student athletes, parents, and coaches; to authorize the Alabama High School Athletic Association and the Alabama Independent School Association to provide the training; to allow for the removal from play of student athletes who exhibit symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest; to require student athletes and parents to acknowledge receipt of informational materials related to sudden cardiac arrest; and to encourage AED availability.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Tyrell Spencer Act.

Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) AHSAA. The Alabama High School Athletic Association.

(2) AISA. The Alabama Independent School Association.

(3) ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.
a. This term includes any of the following activities:

1. Interscholastic athletics at any school.
2. Any athletic contest or competition other than interscholastic athletics that is sponsored by or associated with a school, including club-sponsored sports activities.
3. Competitive or noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school.
4. Any practices, including interscholastic practices or scrimmages for any activities listed in this subdivision.

b. This term does not include any recreational sports activity that is not associated with a school, including a city or county recreational youth sports league.

(4) BOARD. The State Board of Education.
(5) SCHOOL. Any public or private K-12 school.
(6) STUDENT ATHLETE. A student who is enrolled in a K-12 school and participates in any athletic activity.

Section 3. (a) The board shall adopt guidelines to inform and educate student athletes, parents, and coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to participate in or practice an athletic activity after experiencing symptoms, as outlined by the required training.

(b) The board shall develop a cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet to be provided to each student athlete participating in an athletic activity. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, before any student athlete may participate in any athletic activity, the student athlete and his or her parent or guardian shall sign and
return to the student athlete’s school an acknowledgement form acknowledging their receipt and review of the information sheet. The acknowledgment form shall be developed by the AHSAA for its member schools and the AISA for its member schools. As part of the student athlete’s eligibility requirements, a new acknowledgement form shall be signed and returned to the applicable school at the beginning of each school year in which the student athlete intends to participate in an athletic activity. Each acknowledgment form shall be kept in the school’s online eligibility software program.

(c) In developing guidelines and materials, the board may use educational materials created by Simon’s Heart for the purpose of educating student athletes, parents, and coaches about sudden cardiac arrest.

(d) The board, the AHSAA, and the AISA shall post any guidelines or materials developed pursuant to this act on the publicly accessible website of the entity.

Section 4. Each local board of education may hold an informational meeting for student athletes, parents, coaches, and other school officials prior to the start of each athletic season regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. Informational meetings may include, but are not limited to, presentations from physicians, pediatric cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

Section 5. (a)(1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, once every two years, each coach of any athletic activity shall complete a cardiac arrest training course provided by the AHSAA for its member schools and by the AISA.
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for its member schools. The training shall be approved by the
board, and, if the board chooses, may include the course
produced by Simon's Heart and made available through the
National Federation of State High School Associations.

(2) The training shall be in correlation with any other
training required by the relevant school association related
to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external
defibrillators (AEDs).

(b) A coach of any athletic activity may not be
eligible to coach in any practice or competition until he or
she has completed the training course required under this
section.

Section 6. (a) An athletic trainer, coach, or other
responsible party may remove any student athlete who, during
any athletic activity, exhibits any symptoms identifiable by
the required training if the trainer, coach, or other
responsible party reasonably believes that the student
athlete's symptoms are cardiac related. If a student athlete
is removed from an athletic activity for the reason described
in this subsection, an athletic trainer, coach, or other
responsible party who observed the student athlete exhibit the
symptoms shall attempt to notify the student athlete's parent
or guardian of those symptoms.

(b) A student athlete who is removed from participation
in an athletic activity pursuant to this section may not be
permitted to return to play until he or she has been evaluated
by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to
return to play from the licensed physician.
Section 7. The sponsors of recreational youth athletic activities are encouraged, but not required, to follow the guidelines provided in this act.

Section 8. The Legislature encourages the availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) within three minutes retrieval time at any athletic activity.

Section 9. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.
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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 20-Apr-23 as amended.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate 11-May-23 Passed

APPROVED 5-23-2023
TIME 4:57 pm

GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State

Act Num. . .  .: 2023-235
Bill Num. . . : H-45
Recvd 05/23/23 04:37pmSLF

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HOUSE ACTION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE RESOLUTION AS REQUIRED IN SECTION C OF ACT NO. 81-889 WAS ADOPTED AND IS ATTACHED TO THE BILL, H.B. 45

YEAS 102  NAYS 0

JOHN TREADWELL, Clerk


JOHN TREADWELL, Clerk

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

House Conferees

I hereby certify that the Resolution as required in Section C of Act No. 81-889 was adopted and is attached to the Bill, HB 45

YEAS 34  NAYS 0

PATRICK HARRIS,
Secretary

DATE: 4-25  2023
RD 1 RFD C+YH

This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of the Senate on C+YH

and was acted upon by such Committee in session and is by order of the Committee returned therefrom with a favorable report w/amend(s) w/sub by a vote of yes 7  nays 0  abstain 0 this 23rd day of May 2023.

Chair

DATE: 5-3  2023
RF CAU
RD 2 CAL

DATE: 20
RE-REFERRED RE-COMMITTED

Committee

FURTHER SENATE ACTION (OVER)