

**YOUTH SPORT SAFETY AMENDMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses cardiac safety for participants in school athletic activities.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education (state board), in coordination with the Department of Health, to develop training and informational materials regarding warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest;
- ▶ requires the board to publish the training and informational materials online;
- ▶ requires a school coach to annually participate in the training;
- ▶ allows a school to hold an informational meeting regarding warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest before the beginning of an athletic season;
- ▶ requires a student who participates in a school athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of information on the warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest;
- ▶ requires a coach and certain other individuals to remove a student from participation in a school athletic activity if the student shows certain symptoms and limits the liability of the coach or other individual for certain action or inaction;
- ▶ requires a student who is removed from participation in a school athletic activity to be evaluated by a physician before returning to participation; and



28           ▶ provides rulemaking authority.

29 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

30           None

31 **Other Special Clauses:**

32           None

33 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

34 ENACTS:

35           **53G-9-901**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36           **53G-9-902**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37           **53G-9-903**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

38           **53G-9-904**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39           **53G-9-905**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



41 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

42           Section 1. Section **53G-9-901** is enacted to read:

43                           **Part 9. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education and Safety**

44                           **53G-9-901. Definitions.**

45                           As used in this part:

46                           (1) "Athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity that is sponsored by or  
47 associated with a secondary LEA.

48                           (2) "Secondary local education agency" or "secondary LEA" means a school district or  
49 charter school that serves students in grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

50           Section 2. Section **53G-9-902** is enacted to read:

51                           **53G-9-902. Sudden cardiac arrest education and training -- Informational**  
52 **meeting.**

53                           (1) In coordination with the Department of Health, the state board shall develop a  
54 training, information sheet, and other materials to inform and educate school officials, teachers,  
55 athletic coaches, students, and parents about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac  
56 arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to participate in an athletic activity when  
57 experiencing any of the following symptoms:

58                           (a) fainting or seizures during exercise;

59 (b) unexplained shortness of breath;

60 (c) chest pain;

61 (d) dizziness;

62 (e) racing heartbeat; or

63 (f) extreme fatigue.

64 (2) The state board shall publish the training and materials described in Subsection (1)  
65 on a publicly accessible website.

66 (3) Before the beginning of the season for an athletic activity, a school may hold an  
67 informational meeting regarding the warning signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest for:

68 (a) students;

69 (b) parents or legal guardians;

70 (c) coaches and athletic trainers; and

71 (d) other school officials.

72 Section 3. Section **53G-9-903** is enacted to read:

73 **53G-9-903. Coach participation in sudden cardiac arrest training -- Parent and**  
74 **student acknowledgment.**

75 (1) A coach of an athletic activity:

76 (a) shall annually complete the sudden cardiac arrest training described in Section  
77 53G-9-902; and

78 (b) may not coach the athletic activity until the training described in Subsection (1)(a)  
79 is completed.

80 (2) A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the  
81 student's parent or guardian shall sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgment of  
82 receipt and review of an informational sheet describing sudden cardiac arrest warning signs and  
83 symptoms.

84 Section 4. Section **53G-9-904** is enacted to read:

85 **53G-9-904. Student athletic participation after sudden cardiac arrest symptoms --**  
86 **Liability.**

87 (1) If a student exhibits a symptom of sudden cardiac arrest described in Section

88 53G-9-902 while participating in or immediately after an athletic activity, the student's coach

89 for the athletic activity shall immediately notify the student's parent or guardian of the student's

90 symptom.

91 (2) If a student collapses or faints while participating in an athletic activity or  
92 immediately after an athletic activity:

93 (a) the student's coach, athletic director, or athletic trainer shall immediately remove  
94 the student from participation in the athletic activity; and

95 (b) the student may not return to participate in the athletic activity until the student is  
96 evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a licensed physician.

97 (3) A coach, athletic director, or athletic trainer acting in good faith under this section  
98 is not liable for any action or inaction unless the coach, athletic director, or athletic trainer acts  
99 in a grossly negligent or reckless manner.

100 Section 5. Section **53G-9-905** is enacted to read:

101 **53G-9-905. Rulemaking.**

102 The board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
103 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to implement this part.