

**Representative Melissa G. Ballard** proposes the following substitute bill:

**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 and organized youth sporting events.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education (state board) to establish a committee or workgroup to develop training and informational materials regarding warning signs of cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest;
- ▶ requires the board to make available the training and informational materials online;
- ▶ requires a youth sports coach to annually participate in the training;
- ▶ allows an amateur sports organization to hold an informational meeting regarding warning signs of cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest before the beginning of an athletic season;
- ▶ requires a participant in an athletic activity and the participant's parent to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of information on the warning signs of cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest;
- ▶ requires a coach and certain other individuals to remove a participant from an



- 26 athletic activity if the participant shows certain warning signs or symptoms;
- 27       ▶ limits the liability of the coach or other individual for certain action or inaction;
- 28       ▶ requires a physician evaluation of a participant who is removed from participation
- 29 in an athletic activity before returning to participation; and
- 30       ▶ provides rulemaking authority.

31 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

32       None

33 **Other Special Clauses:**

34       None

35 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

36 ENACTS:

- 37       **53G-9-901**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 38       **53G-9-902**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 39       **53G-9-903**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 40       **53G-9-904**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 41       **53G-9-905**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

42 REPEALS:

- 43       **26-53-101**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 97



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

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

47               **Part 9. Cardiac Arrest or Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education and Safety**

48               **53G-9-901. Definitions.**

49               As used in this part:

- 50               (1) (a) "Amateur sports organization" means any of the following that sponsor,
- 51 administer, or organize an athletic activity:
- 52               (i) a sports team;
- 53               (ii) a public or private school;
- 54               (iii) a public or private sports league;
- 55               (iv) a public or private sports camp; or
- 56               (v) any other public or private organization that organizes, manages, or sponsors a

57 sporting event for organization's members, enrollees, or attendees.

58 (b) "Amateur sports organization" does not include a professional team, league, or  
59 sporting event.

60 (2) "Athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity that takes place at a public  
61 venue.

62 (3) "Public venue" means a state, county, municipal, LEA, or school field, gym, court,  
63 course, pool, track, or other athletic venue.

64 (4) "Secondary local education agency" or "Secondary LEA" means a school district or  
65 charter school that serves students in grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

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

67 **53G-9-902. Cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest education and training --**  
68 **Informational meeting.**

69 (1) The state board shall establish a committee or workgroup to develop a training,  
70 information sheet, and other materials to inform and educate school officials, teachers, athletic  
71 coaches, students, and parents about the nature, symptoms, and warning signs of cardiac arrest  
72 or sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to participate in an  
73 athletic activity when experiencing warning signs or symptoms, as identified by the committee  
74 or workgroup.

75 (2) The state board shall ensure that the committee or workgroup described in  
76 Subsection (1) includes representation from:

77 (a) the Department of Health and Human Services;

78 (b) an athletic association, as that term is defined in Section [53G-7-1101](#); and

79 (c) licensed athletic trainers.

80 (3) The state board shall make available the training and materials described in  
81 Subsection (1) on a publicly accessible website.

82 (4) Before the beginning of the season for an athletic activity, an amateur sports  
83 organization shall hold an informational meeting, which the organization's affiliated medical  
84 personnel conduct, regarding the warning signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest or sudden  
85 cardiac arrest for participants, parents, coaches, and other amateur sports organization officials.

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

87 **53G-9-903. Coach participation in cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest**

88 **training -- Parent and student acknowledgment.**

89 (1) An athletic director and all coaches of an athletic activity:

90 (a) shall complete once and annually review the cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest  
91 training described in Section 53G-9-902;

92 (b) may not coach the athletic activity until the training described in Subsection (1)(a)  
93 is completed; and

94 (c) shall maintain certification for CPR and AED.

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

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

100 **53G-9-904. Student athletic participation after cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac**  
101 **arrest warning signs or symptoms -- Liability.**

102 (1) If a student exhibits a symptom associated with the possibility of cardiac arrest or  
103 sudden cardiac arrest described in Section 53G-9-902 while participating in or immediately  
104 after an athletic activity, the student's coach for the athletic activity shall immediately notify the  
105 student's parent or guardian of the student's symptom.

106 (2) If a student collapses or faints while participating in an athletic activity or  
107 immediately after an athletic activity with the suspected cause of the collapse or faint being  
108 cardiac in nature:

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

111 (b) the student may not return to participate in the athletic activity until the student is  
112 evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a licensed physician who is  
113 trained in cardiac evaluation and care.

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

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

118 **53G-9-905. Rulemaking.**

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

121            Section 6. **Repealer.**

122            This bill repeals:

123            Section **26-53-101**, Title.