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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6534**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC AND INTRAMURAL ATHLETIC EVENTS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires each local or regional school district and private school to create and apply, starting with the school year beginning July 1, 2022, an emergency action plan to respond to serious and life-threatening sports-related injuries during interscholastic or intramural athletic events.

Under the bill, each plan must (1) have procedures to follow when a student sustains a serious injury or illness while participating in an interscholastic or intramural athletic event and (2) include certain components, such as the staff responsible for implementing the plan. The bill requires it to be developed in consultation with local emergency medical services providers and allied health professionals. It must also be reviewed annually, updated as necessary, and annually rehearsed by the implementing staff.

The bill also specifies (1) staff qualifications related to the plan; (2) the method of plan distribution and posting; and (3) that a board of education or the supervisory agent of a private school may accept gifts, grants, or donations for the plan's development.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

#### **REQUIRED PLAN COMPONENTS**

The bill requires that each emergency action plan include the following:

1. a list of the school employees, coaches, or licensed athletic trainers who will be responsible for implementing the plan and a description of responsibilities for each person;

2. the location or venue where the athletic events occur;
3. a description, including the location, of the equipment and supplies available at athletic event sites that will help these people respond to an emergency;
4. the procedures to follow when a student sustains a serious sports-related injury, including (a) responding to the injured student, (b) summoning emergency medical care, (c) assisting first responders arriving for the student, and (d) documenting the actions taken;
5. the protocols to follow during cardiac or respiratory emergencies, including operating an automatic external defibrillator, using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), or administering medication in accordance with state law on school staff administering medication to students at school athletic events (The law on school staff administering medication only applies to public schools, so it is unclear if private schools would have to abide by this part of the requirement.);
6. the protocols to follow when a student shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or is diagnosed with one, in accordance with the state law on concussions including immediately removing the student from a game;
7. the protocols to follow when a student suffers a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, which must (a) include instructions based on the level of training of the person implementing the plan and (b) meet best practices and state law; and
8. the protocols to follow for heat and cold-related emergencies, which must meet current professional standards.

## **STAFF**

Under the bill, any school employee, coach, or licensed athletic trainer identified in the emergency action plan must be CPR certified

and have completed a first aid course offered by the American Red Cross (ARC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the Department of Public Health, a director of health, or an organization using AHA and ARC first aid guidelines.

**PLAN DISTRIBUTION**

The bill requires each school to:

1. distribute the plan to all school employees, coaches, and licensed athletic trainers identified in the plan,
2. post it in all athletic facilities and at all sites where interscholastic and intramural athletic events take place, and
3. make it available on the school district's or school's website.

**RESOURCES FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

In developing and implementing the emergency action plan, a local or regional board of education or supervisory agent of a nonpublic school may (1) use existing and appropriate public or private materials, models, personnel, and other resources, and (2) accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for the plan.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 38    Nay 0    (03/15/2021)