



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 243**

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6534

*House of Representatives, April 1, 2021*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. SANCHEZ, R. of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the school year  
2 commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, each local and  
3 regional board of education and supervisory agent of a nonpublic  
4 school, in consultation with local emergency medical services providers  
5 and allied health professionals, shall develop and implement an  
6 emergency action plan for responding to serious and life-threatening  
7 sports-related injuries that occur during interscholastic and intramural  
8 athletic events.

9 (b) Such emergency action plan shall establish the procedures to be  
10 followed in the event that a student sustains a serious injury or illness  
11 while participating in an interscholastic or intramural athletic event, and  
12 shall include, but need not be limited to, the following components:

13 (1) A list of the school employees, coaches or licensed athletic trainers

14 in each school who will be responsible for implementing the emergency  
15 action plan and a description of each person's responsibilities under the  
16 plan;

17 (2) An identification of the location or venue where the interscholastic  
18 or intramural athletic event is taking place;

19 (3) A description of the equipment and supplies that may be available  
20 at the site of the interscholastic or intramural athletic event that will  
21 assist in responding to an emergency, including the location of where  
22 such equipment and supplies may be found at such site;

23 (4) A description of the procedures to be followed when a student  
24 sustains a serious sports-related injury, including, but not limited to,  
25 responding to the injured student, summoning emergency medical care,  
26 assisting local first responders in getting to the injured student and  
27 documenting the actions taken during the emergency;

28 (5) A description of the protocols to be followed during cardiac or  
29 respiratory emergencies, including the operation of an automatic  
30 external defibrillator, use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation or the  
31 administration of medication, in accordance with the provisions of  
32 section 10-212a of the general statutes;

33 (6) A description of the protocols to be followed when a student is  
34 observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a  
35 concussion or is diagnosed with a concussion, in accordance with the  
36 provisions of section 10-149c of the general statutes;

37 (7) A description of the protocols to be followed when a student  
38 suffers from a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, provided  
39 such protocols are designed to include instructions that are based on the  
40 level of training of the person implementing the emergency action plan  
41 and are in accordance with best practices and state law; and

42 (8) A description of the protocols to be followed in the event of heat  
43 and cold-related emergencies, provided such protocols are in  
44 accordance with current professional standards.

45 (c) Each local and regional board of education and supervisory agent  
 46 of a nonpublic school shall annually review such board or agent's  
 47 emergency action plan and update such plan, as necessary. Annually,  
 48 those persons described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this  
 49 section who are responsible for implementing such emergency action  
 50 plan, shall rehearse such plan.

51 (d) Any school employee, coach or licensed athletic trainer identified  
 52 in the emergency action plan pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection  
 53 (b) of this section shall be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and  
 54 have completed a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross,  
 55 the American Heart Association, the Department of Public Health, any  
 56 director of health or an organization using guidelines for first aid  
 57 published by the American Heart Association and the American Red  
 58 Cross.

59 (e) Each local and regional board of education and supervisory agent  
 60 of a nonpublic school shall (1) distribute the emergency action plan to  
 61 all school employees, coaches and licensed athletic trainers identified in  
 62 the emergency action plan pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b)  
 63 of this section, (2) post such emergency action plan in all athletic  
 64 facilities and at all sites where interscholastic and intramural athletic  
 65 events will take place, and (3) make such emergency action plan  
 66 available on the Internet web site for the school district or school.

67 (f) In developing and implementing the emergency action plan, a  
 68 local or regional board of education or supervisory agent of a nonpublic  
 69 school may utilize existing and appropriate public or private materials,  
 70 models, personnel and other resources, and may accept gifts, grants and  
 71 donations, including in-kind donations, designated for the development  
 72 and implementation of the emergency action plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(c), "The emergency action plan shall be reviewed annually, and should be rehearsed annually, by those persons described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section who are responsible for implementing such plan. Such plan shall be updated as necessary." was redrafted as, "Each local and regional board of education and supervisory agent of a nonpublic school shall annually review such board or agent's emergency action plan and update such plan, as necessary. Annually, those persons described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section who are responsible for implementing such emergency action plan, shall rehearse such plan.", for clarity and proper form.

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires local and regional school districts to conduct various procedural tasks related to emergency action plans to respond to serious and life-threatening sports-related injuries during interscholastic or intramural athletic events. Local and regional school districts have the staff and resources necessary to complete the procedural tasks outlined in the bill.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)