

Senate Bill 60

By: Senators Martin of the 9th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Albers of the 56th, Miller of the 49th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"  
3 so as to provide for guidelines and other relevant materials to inform high school students  
4 participating in interscholastic athletic activities about the nature and warning signs of  
5 sudden cardiac arrest; to provide for definitions; to provide for informational meetings; to  
6 provide for removal from an athletic activity under certain circumstances and to establish  
7 return to play policies; to require annual review by coaches; to provide for limited liability;  
8 to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Jeremy Nelson and Nick Blakely Sudden  
13 Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act."

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
16 relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended  
17 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

18 "20-2-324.4.

19 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

20 (1) 'Interscholastic athletic activity' means interscholastic athletics and practices,  
21 interschool practices, and scrimmages related to interscholastic athletics.

22 (2) 'School' means a public or private high school in this state, including all charter  
23 schools.

24 (3) 'Student' means a student in grades nine through 12.

25 (b)(1) The Department of Education shall develop and post on its publicly accessible  
26 website guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students  
27 participating in or desiring to participate in an interscholastic athletic activity, their  
28 parents or guardians, and coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac  
29 arrest, including the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing  
30 the following symptoms: fainting or seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of  
31 breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate, or extreme fatigue. In developing the  
32 guidelines and materials about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, the  
33 Department of Education may utilize educational videos available at no cost to the state  
34 for the purpose of educating coaches about sudden cardiac arrest.

35 (2) A student participating in or desiring to participate in an interscholastic athletic  
36 activity and such student's parent or guardian shall, each school year and prior to  
37 participation by such student in an interscholastic athletic activity, sign and return to such  
38 student's school an acknowledgment of receipt and review of the sudden cardiac arrest  
39 symptoms and warning signs.

40 (c) A school shall hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season  
41 regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. At such informational  
42 meeting, an information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs shall  
43 be provided to each student's parent or guardian. In addition to students, parents or  
44 guardians, coaches, and other school officials, such informational meetings may include  
45 physicians, pediatric cardiologists, and athletic trainers.

46 (d)(1) A student who passes out or faints while participating in, or immediately  
47 following, an interscholastic athletic activity, or who is known to have passed out or  
48 fainted while participating in or immediately following an interscholastic athletic activity,  
49 shall be removed from participation in the interscholastic athletic activity at that time by  
50 the athletic director, coach, or athletic trainer.

51 (2) A student who exhibits any of the other symptoms set forth in paragraph (1) of  
52 subsection (b) of this Code section while participating in, or immediately following, an  
53 interscholastic athletic activity may be removed from participation in the interscholastic  
54 athletic activity by an athletic trainer, if the athletic trainer reasonably believes that such  
55 symptoms are cardiac related. In the absence of an athletic trainer, coaches who observe  
56 any of the other symptoms set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code  
57 section may notify the parents or guardians of such student so that the parents or  
58 guardians can determine what treatment, if any, such student should seek.

59 (3) A student who is removed from participation in an interscholastic athletic activity  
60 pursuant to this subsection shall not be permitted to return to participation in an

61 interscholastic athletic activity until such student is evaluated and cleared for return to  
62 participation in writing by an appropriate health care provider.

63 (e)(1) Once each school year, each coach of an interscholastic athletic activity shall  
64 review the guidelines and relevant materials or view an educational video approved by  
65 the Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code  
66 section.

67 (2) A coach shall not be eligible to coach an interscholastic athletic activity until he or  
68 she completes the requirements contained in this subsection.

69 (f) No coach shall be liable for his or her actions or inactions under this Code section  
70 unless he or she is found to have acted in a grossly negligent or reckless manner.

71 (g) The sponsors of youth athletic activities, as defined in paragraph (4) of subsection (a)  
72 of Code Section 20-2-324.1, are encouraged to implement the provisions of this Code  
73 section."

74 **SECTION 3.**

75 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.