



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 587

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S.P. 270

In Senate, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Require Cardiac Emergency Response Plans and Athletic  
Emergency Action Plans for Schools and School-sponsored Athletic  
Events**

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Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 19, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RAFFERTY of York.  
Cosponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast and  
Representatives: MITCHELL of Cumberland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§16**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 254, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **16. Comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan.** Each  
5 school board shall annually approve a comprehensive health and safety and emergency  
6 management plan that meets nationally recognized practices ~~and~~, is developed by the  
7 school unit administration working collaboratively with appropriate stakeholders and  
8 includes an athletic emergency action plan as described in section 6304-A, subsection 3.  
9 The approval of a comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan under  
10 this subsection is public information. At the request of any school board member or full-  
11 time school employee, the school board shall form a steering committee composed of  
12 school employees, including a school employee designated by that employee's school as  
13 having oversight regarding school safety, school board members, parents and others. A  
14 majority of the school employees must be chosen by the local representatives of the  
15 applicable bargaining unit if the school employees are covered by a collective bargaining  
16 agreement. The steering committee shall regularly review and refine the comprehensive  
17 health and safety and emergency management plan. The following information pertaining  
18 to a comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan is public  
19 information:

20 A. A description of the scope and purpose of the comprehensive health and safety and  
21 emergency management plan and the process used for developing and updating the  
22 plan;

23 B. General information on auditing for safety and preparedness;

24 C. Roles and responsibilities of school administrators, teachers and staff and the  
25 designated chain of command during an emergency; and

26 D. Strategies for conveying information to parents and the general public during an  
27 emergency.

28 Except as provided in paragraphs A to D, release of the contents of a comprehensive health  
29 and safety and emergency management plan approved under this subsection is subject to  
30 the limitations set forth in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph L.

31 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6304-A** is enacted to read:

32 **§6304-A. Cardiac emergency response plan; athletic emergency action plan**

33 **1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,  
34 the following terms have the following meanings.

35 A. "Athletic emergency action plan" means written guidelines or templates for  
36 documentation of emergency planning to help prepare a person for a catastrophic injury  
37 situation in an athletic or sports setting.

38 B. "Cardiac emergency response plan" means a written document that establishes  
39 specific steps to reduce incidents of death from sudden cardiac arrest or a similar  
40 life-threatening emergency.

41 C. "Economically disadvantaged students" has the same meaning as in section 15672,  
42 subsection 3.

1           **2. Cardiac emergency response plan in schools.** Beginning in the 2026-2027 school  
2 year, a school administrative unit must develop a cardiac emergency response plan in  
3 accordance with this subsection.

4           A. A cardiac emergency response plan must address the appropriate use of school  
5 personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac  
6 arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.

7           B. A plan must require that school officials work directly with local emergency service  
8 providers to integrate a cardiac emergency response plan into the local community's  
9 emergency medical services protocol.

10          C. A cardiac emergency response plan must integrate evidence-based core elements,  
11 such as those recommended by the American Heart Association or a nationally  
12 recognized heart health organization. A cardiac emergency response plan must  
13 include, but is not limited to:

14           (1) Establishment of a cardiac emergency response team;

15           (2) Activation of the cardiac emergency response team in response to an incident  
16 of sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency on school grounds;

17           (3) Placement of automated external defibrillators in occupied school buildings  
18 and the oversight of necessary routine maintenance;

19           (4) Distribution of the cardiac emergency response plan to all school personnel;

20           (5) Organization of ongoing personnel training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation,  
21 use of automated external defibrillators and annual practice drills for each; and

22           (6) A process for annual review and evaluation of the cardiac emergency response  
23 plan.

24          D. A cardiac emergency response plan must specify the appropriate placement of  
25 automated external defibrillators in accordance with guidelines set by the American  
26 Heart Association or other nationally recognized heart health organization. An  
27 automated external defibrillator must be identified with appropriate signage and be  
28 made available in an unlocked location on school property that enables a person to  
29 place the automated external defibrillator on an individual experiencing sudden cardiac  
30 arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency within 3 minutes.

31          E. A plan must require that coaches, school nurses and athletic trainers participate in  
32 the training organized pursuant to paragraph C, subparagraph 5.

33           **3. Athletic emergency action plan.** A comprehensive health and safety and  
34 emergency management plan approved pursuant to section 1001, subsection 16 must  
35 include an athletic emergency action plan based on recommendations from the American  
36 Heart Association or a nationally recognized heart health organization that address the  
37 appropriate, venue-specific use of school personnel to respond to an individual  
38 experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending  
39 or participating in an athletic practice or event on school grounds.

40           **4. Automated external defibrillator in athletic venues.** In addition to the placement  
41 of automated external defibrillators pursuant to a cardiac emergency response plan pursuant  
42 to subsection 2, paragraph D, an automated external defibrillator must be placed in each

athletic venue on school property in an unlocked location. An automated external defibrillator in an athletic venue must be accessible during the school day and at any school-sponsored athletic event or team practice in which students are participating. An automated external defibrillator must be tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines. Notification must be provided to the appropriate first aid, ambulance, rescue service or other appropriate local emergency medical service providers of the location and type of automated external defibrillator acquired.

**5. Funding.** The department shall provide funding to school administrative units for the implementation of cardiac emergency response plans and athletic emergency action plans with funding priority given to schools in which at least 50% of the students are economically disadvantaged students.

A school board may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations designated for the purchase of an automated external defibrillator that meets the standards established by the United States Food and Drug Administration and for the costs of maintaining the automated external defibrillator and training school personnel on its use.

**6. Rulemaking.** The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section and to develop a procedure for monitoring adherence to this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**School and Student Supports Z270**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to school administrative units to implement a cardiac emergency response plan. Funds may be used for activities and equipment such as the purchase and maintenance of automated external defibrillators, cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for faculty and personnel and basic first aid training and educational materials.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,800,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires school administrative units, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, to develop cardiac emergency response plans, which must address the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency on school grounds. A cardiac emergency response plan must include the establishment of a cardiac emergency response team, the activation of the team in an incident of sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency, placement of automated external defibrillators in school buildings, distribution of the plan to school personnel, organization of personnel training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators and annual practice drills of each and a process for annual review and evaluation of the plan.

1           The bill also requires that a school board approve an athletic emergency action plan  
2 that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel in response to an individual  
3 experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency at a school-  
4 sponsored athletic event and requires that each school athletic venue be equipped with an  
5 automated external defibrillator. The bill requires the Department of Education to provide  
6 funding for the implementation of cardiac emergency response plans and athletic  
7 emergency action plans with priority to schools in which at least 50% of the students are  
8 economically disadvantaged.