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Legislative Document

No. 1051

H.P. 734

House of Representatives, March 16, 2017

An Act To Prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUCHESNE of Hudson.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GUERIN of Glenburn, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft,
HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 10** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 10**

4 **SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION ACT**

5 **§6671. Short title**

6 This subchapter may be known and cited as "the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention
7 Act."

8 **§6672. Definitions**

9 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following
10 terms have the following meanings.

11 **1. Athletic activity.** "Athletic activity" means an activity taking place in the
12 presence of or under the supervision of an athletic director, coach or athletic trainer and
13 includes:

14 A. Interscholastic athletics;

15 B. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is
16 sponsored by or associated with a school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored
17 sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations;

18 C. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school;
19 and

20 D. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all of the activities listed
21 under paragraphs A to C.

22 **§6673. Sudden cardiac arrest**

23 **1. Educational materials.** The Department of Education shall develop and post on
24 its publicly accessible website guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and
25 educate students participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their
26 parents and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest,
27 including the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing the
28 following symptoms: fainting or seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of
29 breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate and extreme fatigue.

30 **2. Receipt and review.** A student participating in or desiring to participate in an
31 athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each school year and prior to
32 participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school
33 an acknowledgment of receipt and review of the sudden cardiac arrest symptoms
34 informational and educational guidelines under subsection 1.

35 **3. Removal from participation.** An athletic director, coach or athletic trainer:

1 A. Shall remove from participation at that time a student who loses consciousness
2 while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity or who is known
3 to have lost consciousness while participating in or immediately following an athletic
4 activity;

5 B. May remove a student who exhibits any of the symptoms described in subsection
6 1 during an athletic activity from participation if the athletic director, coach or
7 athletic trainer reasonably believes that the symptoms are cardiac-related; and

8 C. Shall notify the parents of a student who has been removed from participation
9 under paragraph A or B.

10 A student who is removed from participation under paragraph A or B may not return to
11 participation in an athletic activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to
12 participation in writing by an appropriate medical professional.

13 **4. Training course.** This subsection governs the training of athletic directors,
14 coaches and athletic trainers in the subject of sudden cardiac arrest.

15 A. Once each school year, an athletic director, coach or athletic trainer shall
16 complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course provided by a 3rd party approved by
17 the department.

18 B. An athletic director, coach or athletic trainer is not eligible to coach or supervise
19 an athletic activity until completion of the training course required under this
20 subsection.

21 **5. Penalties.** A school board that finds an athletic director, coach or athletic trainer
22 to have violated subsection 4 shall impose the following penalties:

23 A. For a first violation, suspension from coaching or supervising any athletic activity
24 for the remainder of the season;

25 B. For a 2nd violation, suspension from coaching or supervising any athletic activity
26 for the remainder of the season and for the next season; and

27 C. For a 3rd violation, permanent suspension from coaching or supervising any
28 athletic activity.

29 **6. Civil liability.** An athletic director, coach or athletic trainer is not subject to civil
30 liability for a violation of this subchapter unless the athletic director, coach or athletic
31 trainer is found to have been grossly negligent or reckless.

32 SUMMARY

33 This bill enacts the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, which provides for
34 education regarding sudden cardiac arrest in students engaged in athletics, the removal
35 from athletic events of students who exhibit symptoms of cardiac arrest, education and
36 training for athletic directors, coaches and athletic trainers and penalties for violations of
37 the Act.