

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 542

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

CURRICULA: Requires instruction relative to CPR and automated external defibrillators to be integrated into the curriculum of an existing required course of study in public high schools

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:81(X) and 3996(B)(34), relative to instruction in public high schools
3 regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators; to
4 require and provide guidelines for such instruction; to provide relative to rules and
5 regulations; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:81(X) and 3996(B)(34) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §81. General powers of local public school boards

9 * * *

10 X.(1) The governing authority of each public school that enrolls students in
11 grades nine through twelve shall provide instruction relative to cardiopulmonary
12 resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator. Such instruction
13 shall be integrated into the curriculum of an existing required course, such as health
14 education, physical education, or another required course deemed appropriate by the
15 school governing authority, and shall include the following:

16 (a) An instructional program developed by the American Heart Association
17 or the American Red Cross or an instructional program that is nationally recognized
18 and based on the most current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular

1 care guidelines for the performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of
2 an automated external defibrillator.

3 (b) Training for students relative to the psychomotor skills necessary to
4 perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. For the purposes of this Subparagraph,
5 "psychomotor skills" means skills that students are required to perform as hands-on
6 practice to support cognitive learning.

7 (2)(a) A classroom teacher shall not be required to be a certified trainer of
8 cardiopulmonary resuscitation to facilitate, provide, or oversee the instruction.

9 (b) The governing authority of each public school may consult and partner
10 with the following individuals whom the governing authority may authorize to
11 participate in providing the instruction:

12 (i) Emergency medical technicians, paramedics, physicians, nurses,
13 respiratory therapists, police officers, deputy sheriffs, or firefighters, each of whom
14 must be currently licensed, certified, or commissioned according to his respective
15 occupation in order to participate in providing such instruction.

16 (ii) Representatives of the American Heart Association or the American Red
17 Cross or other similarly qualified individuals.

18 (c) Instruction required pursuant to this Subsection shall not result in the
19 certification of students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or the use of an automated
20 external defibrillator. If, separate and apart from the instruction required by this
21 Subsection, a school governing authority provides a training program that is intended
22 to result in such certification, the instructor shall be authorized to provide instruction
23 for certification by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or a
24 similar nationally recognized association. Prior to the certification of any student
25 under the age of eighteen through such a training program, a school governing
26 authority shall obtain parental consent.

27 (d) The physical presence of an automated external defibrillator in the
28 classroom is not required. The instruction need only provide general information on
29 the use and importance of automated external defibrillators.

- (1) An instructional program developed by the American Heart Assoc. (AHA) or the American Red Cross (ARC) or that is nationally recognized and based on the most current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for CPR and AED.
- (2) Hands-on training for students relative to the psychomotor skills necessary to perform CPR.

Authorizes public school governing authorities to partner with emergency medical technicians, paramedics, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, police officers, deputy sheriffs, or firefighters, each of whom must be currently licensed, certified, or commissioned according to his respective occupation in order to participate in providing such instruction, as well as representatives of the AHA or ARC or other similarly qualified individuals. Provides that a classroom teacher is not required to be a certified trainer of CPR to facilitate, provide, or oversee this instruction.

Prohibits the instruction required by proposed law to result in the certification of students in CPR or the use of an AED. Should a school governing authority provide, separate and apart from the instruction required by proposed law, a training program intended to result in such certification, requires that the instructor be authorized to provide instruction for certification by the AHA, ARC, or a similar nationally recognized association. Further requires a school governing authority to obtain parental consent prior to the certification of any student under the age of 18 through such a training program.

Provides that the physical presence of an AED in the classroom is not required and that the instruction need only provide general information on the use and importance of automated external defibrillators.

Requires public school governing authorities to adopt rules and regulations necessary for proposed law implementation and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a procedure to monitor the compliance of public school governing authorities with proposed law. Proposed law is applicable to all public schools enrolling students in grades nine through 12, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(X) and 3996(B)(34))