
DIGEST

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Willmott

HB No. 542

Abstract: Requires instruction relative to CPR and automated external defibrillators to be integrated into the curriculum of an existing course of study that is required for high school graduation.

Proposed law requires the governing authorities of public schools enrolling students in grades nine through 12 to provide instruction relative to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Requires the integration of such instruction into the curriculum of an existing course, such as health education, physical education, or another course that is required for graduation and deemed appropriate by the school governing authority and requires the instruction to include the following:

- (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. Exempts students receiving such instruction at a virtual school from hands-on training.

Authorizes public school governing authorities to partner with emergency medical technicians, paramedics, physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, police officers, deputy sheriffs, nurse practitioners, athletic trainers, firefighters, and anyone included in the present law (R.S. 40:1299.41) definition of "health care provider", each of whom shall be certified in CPR and 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 an instructor may apply the hours spent performing this instruction toward fulfilling professional requirements relative to performing community service, if applicable.

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 to comply with any surveys or reporting that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education or the state Dept. of Education requires in order to determine whether governing authorities are complying 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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Specifies that the existing course into which instruction shall be integrated shall be one that is required for graduation.
2. Exempts students receiving the instruction in a virtual school from performing hands-on training.
3. Relative to those with whom school governing authorities may partner to provide instruction, provides as follows:
 - (a) Adds athletic trainers, nurse practitioners, and any person included in the present law definition of "health care provider".
 - (b) Requires instructors to be certified in CPR.
 - (c) Adds that they may apply instruction to professional community service requirements, if applicable.
4. Instead of requiring the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish a procedure to monitor the compliance of public school governing authorities with proposed law, requires such governing authorities to comply with any surveys or reporting that BESE or the state Dept. of Education requires in order to determine whether they are complying with proposed law.