

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SB 430

INTRODUCER: Senator Simon

SUBJECT: Automated External Defibrillators on School Grounds

DATE: March 14, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	ED	Pre-meeting
2.			AED	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 430 establishes the “Kickstart My Heart Act,” requiring that by July 1, 2027, every public school, including charter schools, must have at least one operational automated external defibrillator (AED) on school grounds. Specifically, public schools are required to:

- Maintain AEDs according to manufacturer specifications.
- Publicize and clearly mark AED locations.
- Report annually to the Commissioner of Education, beginning June 30, 2028, on AED usage and cardiac arrest survival rates.

The bill clarifies that a public school that is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and required to maintain an operational AED on campus related to athletics does not constitute compliance with this act.

The bill authorizes, subject to appropriation, reimbursement by the Department of Education of up to 50 percent of AED purchase costs for public schools and charter schools and requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a significant health risk in school settings, particularly during vigorous physical activity such as athletic practices and games. Immediate intervention through cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) is crucial. Research indicates that individuals experiencing ventricular fibrillation, a common cause of SCA, have a survival rate of 50 percent or higher when CPR and AED treatment are

administered within three to five minutes of collapse. In 2014 alone, approximately 360,000 cases of sudden cardiac arrest occurred in community settings across the United States, including schools, highlighting the importance of readily accessible AEDs on school grounds.¹

CPR, First Aid, and AEDs

CPR is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple the chances of survival after cardiac arrest by keeping the blood flow active until the arrival of trained medical staff.²

First aid refers to medical attention that is usually administered immediately on-site after the injury occurs. It often consists of a one-time, short-term treatment and requires little technology or training to administer. First aid can include cleaning minor cuts, scrapes, or scratches; treating a minor burn; applying bandages and dressings; the use of non-prescription medicine; draining blisters; removing debris from the eyes; massage; and drinking fluids to relieve heat stress.³

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart when it detects an abnormal rhythm and changes the rhythm back to normal.⁴ AEDs can greatly increase a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.⁵ Although formal AED training isn't required, it's recommended to increase the confidence level of the user, promoting better outcomes.⁶

AEDs on School Grounds

Since 2006, a public school that is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA)⁷ has been required to have an operational AED on school grounds.⁸ In 2020, the "Zachary Martin Act" required the AED to be in a clearly marked and publicized location for each athletic contest, practice, workout, or conditioning session, including those conducted outside of the school year. Public and private partnerships are encouraged to cover the cost associated with the purchase and placement of the AED and training in the use of the AED.⁹

¹ American Heart Association, *Cardiac Emergency Response Planning for Schools: A Policy Statement* (2016), available at <https://cpr.heart.org/-/media/CPR-Files/Training-Programs/Nation-of-Heartsavers/CERP/CERP-for-Schools-Policy-in-Brief.pdf>.

² American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Care, *What is CPR?*, available at <https://cpr.heart.org/en/resources/what-is-cpr> (last visited Mar. 11, 2025).

³ Occupational Safety and Health Administration, *What is First Aid?*, available at <https://www.osha.gov/medical-first-aid/recognition> (last visited Mar. 11, 2025).

⁴ American Heart Association, *What Is an Automated External Defibrillator?*, available at <https://www.heart.org/-/media/files/health-topics/answers-by-heart/what-is-an-aed.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2025).

⁵ *Supra* note 2.

⁶ *Supra* note 4.

⁷ See Section 1006.20, F.S. The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is designated in Florida law as a governing nonprofit organization of athletics in Florida public schools.⁷ Any high school⁷ in Florida, including charter schools, virtual schools, and home education cooperatives, may become a member of the FHSAA and participate in the activities of the FHSAA.

⁸ Ch. 2006-301, Laws of Fla.

⁹ Section 1006.165(1)(a), F.S.

Beginning in 2021, a school employee or volunteer with current training in CPR and the use of an AED must be present at every athletic event during and outside of the school year, including athletic contests, practices, workouts, and conditioning sessions. The training must include completion of a course in CPR or a basic first aid course that includes CPR training and demonstrated proficiency in the use of an AED. Each employee or volunteer who is reasonably expected to use an AED must complete this training.¹⁰

The location of the AED must be registered with a local emergency medical services medical director and each employee or volunteer required to complete the training must be notified annually in writing of the location of the AED on school grounds. The use of defibrillators by employees and volunteers is covered under the Good Samaritan Act and the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act.¹¹

Athletic coaches employed by a public school, not just schools that are members of the FHSAA, must hold and maintain certification in CPR, first aid, and the use of an AED. The certification must be consistent with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.¹²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 430 establishes the “Kickstart My Heart Act,” requiring that by July 1, 2027, every public school, including charter schools, must have at least one operational automated external defibrillator (AED or defibrillator) on school grounds. The defibrillator must be available in a clearly marked and publicized location. Schools must maintain the defibrillator according to the manufacturer's recommendations and maintain all verification records for the defibrillator. The location of the defibrillator must be registered with a local emergency medical services medical director.

The bill provides immunity from liability for school employees and volunteers who use a defibrillator under the Good Samaritan Act and the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act.

Annually, beginning June 30, 2028, the bill requires each school district and charter school to report to the Commissioner of Education how many times a defibrillator was used on school grounds and the survival rate of individuals experiencing cardiac arrest.

If a public school is a member of the FHSAA and as such is already required to have an operational AED on school grounds to comply with existing law, that does not constitute compliance with the requirements of this bill. The bill requires such schools to purchase an additional AED.

Subject to an appropriation, the bill authorizes the DOE to reimburse each school district and charter school up to 50 percent of the total AED purchase price.

The bill requires the SBE to adopt rules to administer the provisions of the bill.

¹⁰ Section 1006.165(1)(b), F.S.

¹¹ Section 1006.165(1)(c)-(d), F.S.

¹² Section 1012.55(2)(a), F.S.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There would not be an immediate fiscal impact on school districts for this bill. The requirement for each public school, including charter schools, to have at least one operational automated external defibrillator (AED) on school grounds is not required until July 1, 2027. Upon the implementation date, there would be an indeterminate fiscal impact on school districts to purchase and maintain the AED. Based on a recent survey by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, with 38 of 67 school districts responding, many schools in these districts reported having at least one AED in addition to the AED required for FHSAA member schools. Subject to an appropriation, the bill allows the department to reimburse each school district and charter school up to 50 percent of the total automated external defibrillator purchase price.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 1003.457 of the Florida Statutes.

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Law.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.