

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 686 (Delegate Simmons, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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Youth Sports Programs - Venue-Specific Emergency Action Plans -  
Requirements

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This bill requires a youth sports program to develop venue-specific emergency action plans for each facility used during the relevant athletic season. Plans must include (1) the operation and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs); (2) provision of first aid; and (3) coordination of care for other emergent injuries, as specified, and severe weather for practices and events at outdoor facilities. A plan must be (1) available on the youth sports program’s website at the beginning of each athletic season; (2) distributed to each member of the coaching staff; and (3) rehearsed in person and interactively by all members of the coaching staff before each respective athletic season. Each facility at which a youth sports program holds a practice or an event must procure an AED that the youth sports program may use to satisfy the bill’s AED requirements.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Expenditures increase for State-owned and -operated facilities that host youth sporting events for the purchase of additional AEDs. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) can update its regulation and inspection of youth camps that include sports with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local governments that own or operate facilities where youth sports programs practice or hold events must purchase additional AEDs, as discussed below. Expenditures also increase for local governments that operate youth sports programs for the development of plans and provision of training. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The provisions of a venue-specific emergency action plan for the operation and use of AEDs must ensure that (1) an AED is present at or within a brief walk of each athletic practice and event; (2) an AED is freely accessible during each athletic practice and event; (3) all members of the coaching staff are trained in the operation and use of an AED; and (4) a trained member of the coaching staff is present at each athletic practice and event.

The provisions of a venue-specific emergency action plan for the administration of first aid must require all members of the coaching staff to hold a valid first aid certification from the American Red Cross or another program with equivalent standards.

**Current Law:** Chapter 212 of 2022 requires each middle school and high school to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for the operation and use of AEDs and heat acclimatization. The venue-specific emergency action plan must also include coordination of care for other injuries and severe weather for outdoor facilities.

The venue-specific emergency action plan required under Chapter 212 must include guidelines for heat acclimatization for student athletes, as specified, and ensure that (1) each school is properly prepared and equipped to initiate cold water immersion for the treatment of exertional heat stroke; (2) a cooling modality is readily available to student athletes at all athletic practices and events on school property; (3) all members of the coaching staff are trained in cold water immersion; and (4) a trained member of the coaching staff is present at all athletic practices and events on school property.

### *Automated External Defibrillator Program Requirements*

Each local board of education must develop and implement an AED program that meets specified requirements, including provisions that ensure that an AED is provided on site, and an individual trained in the operation and use of an AED is present at all school-sponsored athletic events.

The Maryland State Department of Education, in consultation with MDH, the Maryland State School Health Council, and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), must adopt regulations that establish guidelines for periodic inspections and annual maintenance of AEDs and assist local boards of education in carrying out requirements related to AEDs.

Per Maryland regulations, each local board of education must develop and implement a high school and middle school AED Program, with at least one AED on site in each public high school and middle school and one individual trained in AED use present at each

school-sponsored athletic event. Likewise, at least one trained individual has to be on site at each high school and middle school during the regular school day. An AED coordinator must also be designated, who is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED operation.

**Local Expenditures:** Local school systems and facilities owned or operated by local school systems already comply with substantially similar requirements to those outlined in the bill per Chapter 212; therefore, the effect is likely minimal on school systems specifically. However, other facilities owned or operated by local governments may be required to purchase additional equipment to the extent such facilities host youth sports program practices or events and do not already have AEDs present at or within a brief walking distance of practices and events. Local governments that own or operate facilities may further need to modify lease agreements with youth sports programs to require the action plans, but such changes can likely be accommodated with existing resources.

Local governments may themselves operate youth sports programs as defined by the bill. In such instances, providing first aid and AED training to all coaches and rehearsing venue-specific emergency action plans increases local expenditures. Creation of a plan places an additional operational burden on such local governments but is likely absorbable with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Youth sports programs (which may be run by small businesses, community organizations, or nonprofits) face similar additional costs to local governments that operate youth sports programs as outlined above. Particularly for volunteer-run organizations, it may be operationally difficult to draft and implement the plan as specified in the bill given limited resources available to such organizations.

Any small business or nonprofit that owns a venue where youth sports events occur may face additional expenditures to stock AED equipment to the extent such venues do not do so already.

**Additional Comments:** According to MIEMSS, new AED units cost between \$880 and \$1,700 and certified pre-owned AEDs generally range from \$500 to \$880. The American Red Cross offers cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED training courses that cost between \$75 and \$115 per person. It holds on-site AED training at several locations in Maryland, including Annapolis, Baltimore, Salisbury, Silver Spring, and Walkersville.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1259 of 2023.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Baltimore, Carroll, and Queen Anne's counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Natural Resources; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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