
HOUSE BILL 1556

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Van De Wege, Dahlquist, Morrell, Hayes, Cody, Pettigrew, Habib, McCoy, Ryu, Angel, Hunt, Goodman, Pollet, Fitzgibbon, Stonier, Dunshee, and Fey

Read first time 01/30/13. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to initiatives in high schools to save lives in the
2 event of cardiac arrest; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that more than three
7 hundred sixty thousand people in the United States experience cardiac
8 arrest outside of a hospital every year, and only ten percent survive
9 because the remainder do not receive timely cardiopulmonary
10 resuscitation. When administered immediately, cardiopulmonary
11 resuscitation doubles or triples survival rates from cardiac arrest.
12 Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time. Many victims
13 appear healthy and have no known heart disease or other risk factors.
14 The legislature finds that schools are the hearts of our community, and
15 preparing students to help with a sudden cardiac arrest emergency could
16 save the life of a child, parent, or teacher. Washington state has a
17 longstanding history of training members of the public in
18 cardiopulmonary resuscitation with community-based training programs.
19 The legislature finds that training students will continue the legacy

1 of providing high quality emergency cardiac care to its citizens.
2 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a generation of lifesavers
3 by putting cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills in the hands of all
4 high school graduates and providing schools with a flexible framework
5 to prepare for an emergency.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) An automated external defibrillator is often a critical
9 component in the chain of survival for a cardiac arrest victim.

10 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
11 consultation with school districts and stakeholder groups, shall
12 develop guidance for a medical emergency response and automated
13 external defibrillator program for high schools.

14 (3) The medical emergency response and automated external
15 defibrillator program must comply with current evidence-based guidance
16 from the American heart association or other national science
17 organization.

18 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
19 consultation with the department of health, shall assist districts in
20 carrying out a program under this section, including providing
21 guidelines and advice for seeking grants for the purchase of automated
22 external defibrillators or seeking donations of automated external
23 defibrillators. The superintendent may coordinate with local health
24 districts or other organizations in seeking grants and donations for
25 this purpose.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) Each school district that operates a high school must offer
29 instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation to students as provided in
30 this section. Beginning with the graduating class of 2017 completion
31 of the instruction is a requirement for passing at least one health and
32 fitness class necessary for graduation.

33 (2) Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation under this section
34 must:

35 (a) Be an instructional program developed by the American heart

1 association or the American red cross or be nationally recognized and
2 based on the most current national evidence-based emergency
3 cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

4 (b) Include appropriate use of an automated external defibrillator;
5 and

6 (c) Incorporate hands-on practice in addition to cognitive
7 learning.

8 (3) School districts may offer the instruction in cardiopulmonary
9 resuscitation directly or arrange for the instruction to be provided by
10 available community-based providers. The instruction is not required
11 to be provided by a certificated teacher. Certificated teachers
12 providing the instruction are not required to be certified trainers of
13 cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A student is not required to earn
14 certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation to successfully complete
15 the instruction for the purposes of this section.

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