

House Bill 47 – AEDs in Schools and Sports and Recreation Locations

On June 26, 2024, the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 47 (“H.B. 47”), which requires the placement of automated external defibrillators (“AEDs”) in each public sports and recreation facility as well as each public and chartered nonpublic school that is subject to the rules of an interscholastic conference or an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events. The bill also requires staff at these locations to be trained in the use of AEDs, including teachers, principals, administrative employees, coaches, athletic trainers, other persons who supervise interscholastic athletics, and any other employee subject to in-service training requirements under current law.

In addition, the bill requires the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model emergency plan for AED use by schools, youth sports organizations, and municipal sports and recreation locations. Each public and chartered nonpublic school must adopt an emergency action plan for the use of AEDs and may use the model plan developed by the Ohio Department of Health. Further, the bill requires each public and chartered nonpublic school and youth sports organization, before each athletic season, to hold an informational meeting about the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for student and youth athletes.

The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to develop a procedure for reporting violations of the requirements to place AEDs in schools. The bill provides liability protections for those using AEDs in good faith.

Schools and sports and recreation facilities must continue to comply with existing protocols for recognizing sudden cardiac arrest in student and youth athletes, including requiring students to review sudden cardiac arrest guidelines and undergo a physical examination before participation in athletic activities. Coaches are also still required to remove student or youth athletes from participation if they exhibit fainting or a temporary loss of consciousness and to complete an annual sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Department of Health. The bill will go into effect on October 24, 2024.

The AOC needs to ensure that its schools, parishes, institutions, and employees comply with the requirements of H.B. 47.