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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Malik, Corvese, Winfield, Hull, and Bennett

Date Introduced: January 21, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-33.1. Automated external defibrillators. – (a) Legislative findings-**

4 (1) Approximately three hundred twenty-five thousand (325,000) Americans suffer
5 sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) each year and more than ninety-five percent (95%) of them die
6 before reaching the hospital;

7 (2) In the population of Rhode Island, an estimated one thousand (1,000) residents will
8 die of cardiac arrest every year;

9 (3) No official statistics have been gathered about SCA in children, however experts
10 estimate about three hundred (300) deaths because of SCA every year for people under the age of
11 twenty-one (21) (or about one-tenth of one percent (.1%));

12 (4) This means that at least one person under the age of twenty-one (21), most likely a
13 student, will die due to an athletics related SCA every year in Rhode Island;

14 (5) If defibrillation is performed within five (5) to seven (7) minutes, chances of survival
15 are increased by forty-nine percent (49%). Every minute that goes by without defibrillation
16 reduces the chance of survival by seven (7) to ten percent (10%);

17 (6) Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are extremely accurate computerized
18 devices that can be operated by the average person;

19 (7) AEDs are inexpensive and grants for AEDs are mostly given to nonprofit

1 organizations, such as schools; and

2 (8) AEDs can be acquired through grants from various organization or through
3 government agencies.

4 (b) Mandating AEDs in middle and high schools.

5 (1) All high schools and middle schools, whether they are public or privately run, must
6 have a functional AED on school grounds at all times. Also, there must be a functional AED
7 present on the playing field at all sporting events involving school teams.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on August 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would mandate that all high schools and middle schools whether public or
2 private, and all athletic fields or other locations where high school or middle schools compete in
3 sporting events, have a functional Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site at all times.

4 This act would take effect on August 1, 2015.

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