

1 **H. B. 2623**

2
3 (By Delegates Caputo, Williams, Eldridge, H. White, Pushkin,
4 Guthrie, Longstreth, Ferro, Manchin, Walters and Miley)

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6 [Introduced February 5, 2015; referred to the

7 Committee on Education then Health and Human Resources.]
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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
11 designated §18-2-25b, relating to establishing guidelines and materials to inform and
12 educate students, parents and coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac
13 arrest; and requiring training for coaches and penalties for coaches who fail to complete
14 training.

15 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

16 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
17 section, designated §18-2-25b, to read as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

19 **§18-2-25b. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.**

20 (a) This section may be cited as the Leland’s Law.

21 (b) The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall develop and post on
22 their publicly accessible Internet websites guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and
23 educate students participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents and

1 their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, including the risks
2 associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing one or more symptoms of sudden
3 cardiac arrest, including fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness and abnormal racing
4 heart rate.

5 (c) In developing the guidelines and materials, the West Virginia Secondary School Activities
6 Commission may use existing materials developed by organizations such as Parent Heart Watch and
7 Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes.

8 (d) A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's
9 parent or guardian shall, each school year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic
10 activity, sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgment of receipt and review of a sudden
11 cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet developed under this section.

12 (e) West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission may hold an informational
13 meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for all ages of competitors regarding the symptoms
14 and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. In addition to students, parents, coaches and other school
15 officials, informational meetings may include physicians, pediatric cardiologists and athletic trainers.

16 (f) Once every other school year, a coach of an athletic activity shall complete the sudden
17 cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider approved by the West Virginia Secondary School
18 Activities Commission.

19 (g) A coach of an athletic activity shall complete and become certified in cardiopulmonary
20 resuscitation. A coach shall maintain his or her certification.

21 (h) A coach of an athletic activity may not coach the athletic activity until the coach
22 completes the training course required under this article.

1 (i) The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall establish the following
2 minimum penalties for a coach found in violation of the requirements under this article, which
3 penalties shall take effect two years following the effective date of this section:

4 (1) For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of
5 the season.

6 (2) For a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder
7 of the season and for the next season.

8 (3) For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Secondary School Activities Commission to establish guidelines and materials to inform and educate students, parents and coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. It requires training for coaches and includes penalties for coaches who fail to complete training.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.