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SENATE BILL NO. 1320

Offered January 9, 2025

Prefiled January 9, 2025

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-271.9 and by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-2973.2, relating to preparticipation physical evaluation; children's cardiac safety.

Patron—Bagby

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-271.9 and by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-2973.2 as follows:

§ 22.1-271.9. Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form; module.

A. For the purposes of this section:

"Health care professional" means a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

"Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form" is a form developed jointly by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine and includes the American Heart Association's 14-point screening for heart disease in youth.

B. The Department of Education and the Department of Health shall set forth guidance to both public and private schools and require that prior to the participation of any student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on a school-sponsored or community organization-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, the student shall have a physical examination using the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form. The Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form shall include the history and physical education components and the additional questions required pursuant to subsection B of § 54.1-2973.2. The Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form shall also include a certification statement, to be signed by the registered, licensed, or certified health care professional who performed the physical examination, attesting to the completion of the current professional development module established pursuant to this section.

This physical examination shall be conducted within six weeks of the first day of official practice in an athletic season and shall be conducted by a registered, licensed, or certified health care professional. All preparticipation physical evaluations shall be updated in accordance with the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Monograph developed jointly by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine and that includes the American Heart Association's 14-point screening for heart disease in youth and that asks if the student has (i) been advised by a licensed health care professional not to participate in a sport; (ii) sustained a concussion, been unconscious, or lost memory from a blow to the head; (iii) broken a bone or sprained, strained, or dislocated any muscles or joints; (iv) fainted or blacked out; (v) experienced chest pains, shortness of breath, or heart racing; (vi) had a recent history of fatigue and unusual tiredness; (vii) been hospitalized, visited an emergency room, or had a significant medical illness; (viii) started or stopped taking any over-the-counter or prescribed medications; (ix) had a sudden death in the family, or if any member of the student's family under the age of 50 has had a heart attack or heart trouble; and (x) been asked specifically the four questions listed in subdivision B 2 regarding heart health history during cardiac screening in a well-child visit or preparticipation physical evaluation.

No local school board or chief administrator of a nonpublic school shall permit a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 to participate on a school-sponsored or community organization-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad unless the student has completed a Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form and, if applicable, a health history update questionnaire as required under this section.

C. The Department of Health shall create a single form, which shall include the contents in subsection B, to be utilized in all preparticipation physical evaluations in the Commonwealth.

D. The Departments of Education and Health shall establish a childhood cardiac screening professional development module to increase the assessment skills of those health care professionals who perform well-child physical examinations and screenings. The Departments of Education and Health shall either develop a module adhering to requirements in this section or adopt the module created by the New Jersey Commissioners of Education and Health in consultation with the New Jersey Chapter of the American

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59 *Academy of Pediatrics, the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, the American Heart Association, and*  
60 *the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.*

61 *If the Departments of Education and Health choose to develop a new module, they shall, in consultation*  
62 *with the Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Virginia Academy of Family*  
63 *Physicians, the American Heart Association Virginia, and the Virginia chapter of the American College of*  
64 *Cardiology, develop, for implementation by the 2026–2027 school year, a childhood cardiac screening*  
65 *professional development module to increase the assessment skills of those health care professionals who*  
66 *perform well-child physical examinations and screenings. The module shall include the following: (i) how to*  
67 *complete and review a detailed medical history with an emphasis on cardiovascular family history and*  
68 *personal reports of symptoms, (ii) how to identify symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest that may require follow*  
69 *up with a cardiologist, (iii) how to recognize normal structural changes of the athletic heart, (iv) how to*  
70 *recognize prodromal symptoms that precede sudden cardiac arrest, (v) how to perform the cardiovascular*  
71 *physical examination, (vi) how to review the major etiologies of sudden unexplained cardiac death with an*  
72 *emphasis on structural abnormalities and acquired conditions, and (vii) guidelines on when to refer a student*  
73 *to a cardiologist for further assessment.*

74 *The module shall be posted on the websites of the Departments of Education and Health and links shall be*  
75 *made available to relevant organizations upon request.*

76 *Providers completing the childhood cardiac screening professional development module will be*  
77 *registered in a database to ensure all providers have successfully completed the required modules. This data*  
78 *shall be held for 10 years by the Department of Health.*

79 *The Department of Health shall compile and publish on its website an annual report containing the total*  
80 *number of exams that were completed and the number of referrals that were made to cardiology. The report*  
81 *shall also analyze the outcomes of this legislation.*

82 *E. A licensed health care professional who performs annual physical examinations of children 19 years of*  
83 *age or younger, including examinations prior to the student's participation in a school-sponsored or*  
84 *community organization-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad as required under*  
85 *this section shall complete the childhood cardiac screening professional development module established by*  
86 *the Department of Health under this section every four years.*

87 *A contract between a school division and a school nurse shall include a statement of assurance that the*  
88 *school nurse has completed the childhood cardiac screening professional development module under this*  
89 *section within the past four years.*

90 *A licensed health care professional who completes the childhood cardiac screening professional*  
91 *development module as required pursuant to this section shall retain on file at that person's professional*  
92 *office a hard copy of the certificate of completion of the module that shall be made available upon request.*

93 *Upon renewal of a license by a health care professional who performs annual physical examinations of*  
94 *children 19 years of age or younger, the health care professional shall attest to the completion of the module*  
95 *within the past four years to the Board of Medicine or the Board of Nursing, as appropriate. An application*  
96 *for renewal of a certification, biennial registration, or renewal of a license shall include a check box for*  
97 *attestation regarding the health care professional's compliance with this section.*

98 *Upon performing a preparticipation physical examination required under this section, the health care*  
99 *professional shall sign the certification statement on the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form required*  
100 *pursuant to this section attesting to the completion of the module. The local school board of a public school*  
101 *division and the chief school administrator of a nonpublic school shall retain the original signed statement to*  
102 *attest to the qualification of the health care professional to perform the physical examination required under*  
103 *this section.*

104 **§ 54.1-2973.2. Preparticipation physical evaluation; children's cardiac safety.**

105 *A. For the purposes of this section:*

106 *"Health care professional" means a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.*

107 *"Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form" is a form developed jointly by the American Academy of*  
108 *Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American*  
109 *Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American*  
110 *Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine and includes the American Heart Association's 14-point screening*  
111 *for heart disease in youth.*

112 *B. A licensed health care professional who performs an annual physical examination of a child 19 years*  
113 *of age or younger shall include as part of that examination questions that evaluate a child's family history*  
114 *related to cardiac conditions contained in the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form. Such evaluation*  
115 *shall include:*

116 *1. A question regarding the biologic heart health history of the child, including any history of sperm or*  
117 *egg donors and biological parents.*

118 *2. Four specific questions regarding biologic heart health history during cardiac screening in well-child*  
119 *visits and in preparticipation physical examinations, including:*

120 *a. Have you ever fainted, passed out, or had an unexplained seizure suddenly and without warning,*

121 *especially during exercise or in response to sudden loud noises, such as doorbells, alarm clocks, and ringing*  
122 *telephones?*  
123 *b. Have you ever had exercise-related chest pain or shortness of breath?*  
124 *c. Has anyone in your immediate family (parents, grandparents, siblings) or other, more distant relatives*  
125 *(aunts, uncles, cousins) died of heart problems or had an unexpected sudden death before age 50? This*  
126 *would include unexpected drownings, unexplained auto crashes in which the relative was driving, or SIDS.*  
127 *d. Are you related to anyone with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or hypertrophic obstructive*  
128 *cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, short QT*  
129 *syndrome, Brugada syndrome, catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, or*  
130 *Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome or anyone younger than 50 years old with a pacemaker or implantable*  
131 *defibrillator?*  
132 **2. The Board of Medicine and the Board of Education, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§**  
133 **2.2-4000 et seq.) and in consultation with the State Health Commissioner, shall adopt regulations to**  
134 **effectuate the purposes of this section.**

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