



**House Education Policy Reported Substitute for
HB290**

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6 A BILL

7 TO BE ENTITLED

8 AN ACT

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10 Relating to sudden cardiac arrest; to require the
11 governing body of each public and nonpublic school to develop
12 and implement a cardiac emergency response plan; to provide
13 standards for a cardiac emergency response plan; and to
14 authorize the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

16 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited
17 as the John Wesley Foster Act.

18 (b) For the purposes of this act, the following terms
19 have the following meanings:

20 (1) ATHLETIC ACTIVITY. The same meaning as Section
21 16-30D-2, Code of Alabama 1975.

22 (2) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR or AED. A
23 lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock
24 through the chest to the heart which can potentially stop an
25 irregular heartbeat and allow a normal rhythm to resume
26 following sudden cardiac arrest.

27 (3) CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN. A written document
28 that establishes the specific steps to reduce death from



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29 cardiac arrest in a particular setting.

30 (4) HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOL. A school that meets at least one
31 of the following criteria:

32 a. A school where at least 50 percent of the students
33 are eligible to receive free and reduced priced meals.

34 b. A school that provides meals to all students through
35 the Community Eligibility Provision.

36 c. A Title I school.

37 (5) SCHOOL. A public or nonpublic preK-12 school.

38 (6) SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST. A heart malfunction in which
39 the heart stops beating unexpectedly and, if left untreated,
40 may quickly result in death.

41 Section 2. (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school
42 year, each local board of education and governing body of a
43 nonpublic school shall develop and implement both of the
44 following:

45 (1) A cardiac emergency response plan that addresses
46 the appropriate use of personnel to respond to incidents of
47 sudden cardiac arrest or other similar life-threatening
48 emergencies that occur on school property.

49 (2) If the local board of education or the governing
50 body of a nonpublic school oversees a school with an athletic
51 department or organized athletic program, a cardiac emergency
52 response plan that addresses the appropriate use of personnel
53 to respond to incidents of sudden cardiac arrest or other
54 similar life-threatening emergencies that occur while an
55 individual attends or participates in any athletic activity on
56 school property.



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59 (1) Recommendations relating to the development of a
60 cardiac emergency response plan by the American Heart
61 Association or another entity that provides nationally
62 recognized and evidence-based guidelines based on emergency
63 cardiovascular care.

64 (2) The establishment of a cardiac emergency response
65 team.

66 (3) The implementation and maintenance of ongoing staff
67 training related to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and
68 the use of an AED, as provided in subsection (c).

69 (4) Procedures related to the activation of the cardiac
70 emergency response team in response to an incident of sudden
71 cardiac arrest.

72 (5) Appropriate AED placement on school property in
73 accordance with the guidelines set by the American Heart
74 Association or another entity that provides nationally
75 recognized and evidence-based guidelines based on emergency
76 cardiovascular care, including routine maintenance.

77 (6) Procedures to disseminate the cardiac emergency
78 response plan on school property.

81 (8) Procedures and standards for the ongoing annual
82 review and evaluation of the cardiac emergency response plan.

83 (c) Appropriate school staff shall be trained in first
84 aid, CPR, and the use of an AED according to the guidelines



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85 set forth by the American Heart Association or another entity
86 that provides nationally recognized and evidence-based
87 guidelines based on emergency cardiovascular care. The term
88 appropriate school staff shall be defined in each cardiac
89 emergency response plan and shall include, but not be limited
90 to, licensed coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers.

91 (d) Each local board of education and governing body of
92 a nonpublic school shall work directly with local emergency
93 services providers to develop the cardiac emergency response
94 plan and integrate it into the community's emergency medical
95 services responder protocols.

96 Section 3. The State Board of Education may adopt rules
97 establishing a procedure to monitor adherence to this act by
98 local boards of education and governing bodies of nonpublic
99 schools.

100 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October
101 1, 2024.