

CHAPTER 2025-67

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1607

An act relating to cardiac emergencies; amending s. 1003.453, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing, school districts to provide training in basic first aid to certain students; providing requirements for such training; creating s. 1003.457, F.S.; requiring each public school to develop a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) for specified purposes; requiring school officials to work with local emergency service providers to integrate the PULSE into emergency responder protocols; requiring public schools, including charter schools, to have at least one operational automated external defibrillator on school grounds by a specified date; providing requirements for the placement and maintenance of the defibrillators; providing construction; requiring that certain school staff receive specified training; providing registration requirements for the location of the defibrillators; providing immunity from liability for school employees and volunteers under the Good Samaritan Act and the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1003.453, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.453 School wellness and physical education policies; nutrition guidelines.—

(3) School districts ~~must be encouraged to~~ provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, once in middle school in a physical education or health class and once in high school in a physical education or health class. Instruction in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation must:

(a) Allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

(b) Include the use of an automated external defibrillator for all students in grade 6 and grade 8. School districts are required to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, for all students in grade 9 and grade 11. Instruction in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation must be based on a one-hour, nationally recognized program that uses the most current evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. The instruction must allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use an automated external defibrillator when a school district has the equipment necessary to perform the instruction. Private and public partnerships for providing training or necessary funding are encouraged.

Section 2. Section 1003.457, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1003.457 Cardiac emergencies and automated external defibrillators on school grounds.—

(1) Each public school shall develop a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds. Each PULSE must integrate evidence-based core elements and consider those elements recommended by the American Heart Association for schools responding to cardiac emergencies.

(2) School officials shall work directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the PULSE into the community's emergency responder protocols.

(3)(a) No later than July 1, 2027, each public school, including charter schools, must have at least one operational automated external defibrillator on school grounds. The defibrillator must be available in a clearly marked and publicized location. Schools must maintain the defibrillator according to the manufacturer's recommendations and maintain all verification records for such defibrillators. Compliance with the requirements of s. 1006.165 does not constitute compliance with this section.

(b) Appropriate school staff must be trained in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and defibrillator use.

(c) The location of each defibrillator must be registered with a local emergency medical services medical director.

(d) The use of defibrillators by school employees and volunteers is covered under ss. 768.13 and 768.1325.

(4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2025.