

House File 737 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 737

BY JONES

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing the school health-related emergency response
2 plan competitive grant program within the department of
3 education, making appropriations, and including applicability
4 provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Or.* Be subject to and comply with the
4 requirements of section 280.16B relating to the development and
5 implementation of a cardiac emergency response plan in the same
6 manner as a school district.

7 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
8 by adding the following new paragraph:

9 NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* Be subject to and comply with the
10 requirements of section 280.16B relating to the development and
11 implementation of a cardiac emergency response plan in the same
12 manner as a school district.

13 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **280.16B School health-related**
14 **emergency response plan competitive grant program.**

15 1. As used in this section:

16 a. "*Athletic emergency action plan*" means written guidelines
17 and templates for the documentation of emergency planning to
18 help prepare individuals for a catastrophic injury situation that
19 occurs during physical education or an extracurricular athletic
20 activity or contest.

21 b. "*Automated external defibrillator*" means a lightweight,
22 portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest
23 to the heart to stop an irregular heartbeat and allow normal
24 heartbeat rhythm to resume following cardiac arrest.

25 c. "*Cardiac emergency response plan*" means a written document
26 that satisfies all of the following requirements:

27 (1) Establishes the specific steps to be taken by employees
28 or contractors of a school to respond to incidents involving
29 an individual experiencing cardiac arrest or a similar
30 life-threatening emergency on school property, during physical
31 education, during an extracurricular athletic activity or
32 contest, during practice associated with an extracurricular
33 athletic activity or contest, or during a school-sponsored
34 activity, and to reduce the likelihood of the individual's death
35 from cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency.

1 (2) Integrates core elements of guidance adopted by the
2 American heart association.

3 d. "School" means all of the following:

4 (1) A school district organized pursuant to chapter 274.

5 (2) An accredited nonpublic school.

6 (3) A charter school established pursuant to chapter 256E.

7 (4) A charter school or innovation zone school established
8 pursuant to chapter 256F.

9 2. If the general assembly appropriates moneys to the school
10 health-related emergency response plan competitive grant program
11 fund established pursuant to subsection 5, the department of
12 education shall develop and administer a school health-related
13 emergency response plan competitive grant program to provide
14 grants to schools to offset the costs associated with the
15 school's development and implementation of a cardiac emergency
16 response plan that satisfies all of the following requirements:

17 a. Establishes a cardiac emergency response team and
18 activates the team in response to an individual experiencing
19 cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency on school
20 property, during physical education, during an extracurricular
21 athletic activity or contest, during practice associated with
22 an extracurricular athletic activity or contest, or during a
23 school-sponsored activity.

24 b. Requires the placement of automated external
25 defibrillators on school property pursuant to guidance adopted by
26 the American heart association and in such a manner that all of
27 the following requirements are satisfied:

28 (1) An employee or contractor of a school is able to place
29 an automated external defibrillator on an individual on school
30 property within three minutes after the individual experiences
31 cardiac arrest.

32 (2) Each automated external defibrillator is available in an
33 unlocked location on school property that is accessible during
34 the school day and during any extracurricular athletic activity
35 or contest, practice associated with an extracurricular athletic

1 activity or contest, or school-sponsored activity.

2 (3) Each automated external defibrillator is identified using
3 appropriate signage.

4 c. Requires routine maintenance of automated external
5 defibrillators on school property according to the manufacturer's
6 operational guidelines.

7 d. Requires the school to provide information to emergency
8 medical services providers related to the school's automated
9 external defibrillators, including the type of automated external
10 defibrillator placed on school property and the location of each
11 automated external defibrillator placed on school property.

12 e. Requires the distribution of the cardiac emergency
13 response plan to all attendance centers within the school system.

14 f. Requires ongoing training and certification for coaches,
15 school nurses, athletic trainers, and, when appropriate, other
16 employees or contractors, in first aid, the administration of
17 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external
18 defibrillators.

19 g. Requires annual drills to practice the execution of the
20 cardiac emergency response plan.

21 h. Requires that local emergency medical services providers
22 be contacted in the event an individual experiences cardiac
23 arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency on school
24 property, during physical education, during an extracurricular
25 athletic activity or contest, during practice associated with
26 an extracurricular athletic activity or contest, or during a
27 school-sponsored activity.

28 i. Requires ongoing review and evaluation of the cardiac
29 emergency response plan on at least an annual basis.

30 j. Includes an athletic emergency action plan.

31 3. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to
32 chapter 17A to administer this section, including rules relating
33 to grant application materials, eligibility requirements, and
34 award criteria.

35 4. Moneys awarded under this section shall be used to

1 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by a
2 school district for similar purposes.

3 5. A school health-related emergency response plan
4 competitive grant program fund is established in the state
5 treasury under the control of the department of education. All
6 moneys deposited or paid into the fund are appropriated to the
7 department of education to be used for grants awarded as provided
8 under this section. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the
9 fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of
10 a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for
11 expenditure for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding section
12 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund
13 shall be credited to the fund.

14 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school years
15 beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill establishes the school health-related emergency
20 response plan competitive grant program within the department of
21 education (DE).

22 The bill defines "athletic emergency action plan" as written
23 guidelines and templates for the documentation of emergency
24 planning to help prepare individuals for a catastrophic
25 injury situation that occurs during physical education or an
26 extracurricular athletic activity or contest. The bill defines
27 "automated external defibrillator" as a lightweight, portable
28 device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to
29 the heart to stop an irregular heartbeat and allow normal
30 heartbeat rhythm to resume following cardiac arrest. The
31 bill also defines "cardiac emergency response plan" to mean
32 a written document that establishes the specific steps to be
33 taken by employees or contractors of a school to respond to
34 incidents involving an individual experiencing cardiac arrest or
35 a similar life-threatening emergency on school property, during

1 physical education, during an extracurricular athletic activity
2 or contest, during practice associated with an extracurricular
3 athletic activity or contest, or during a school-sponsored
4 activity, and to reduce the likelihood of the individual's death
5 from cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency, and
6 that integrates core elements of guidance adopted by the American
7 heart association. Additionally, the bill defines "school" as a
8 school district, accredited nonpublic school, charter school, or
9 innovation zone school.

10 The bill provides that if the general assembly appropriates
11 moneys to the school health-related emergency response plan
12 competitive grant program fund, DE is required to develop
13 and administer a school health-related emergency response plan
14 competitive grant program to provide grants to schools to
15 offset the costs associated with the school's development
16 and implementation of a cardiac emergency response plan that
17 satisfies the requirements established in the bill. The state
18 board of education is required to adopt rules to administer
19 the school health-related emergency response plan competitive
20 grant program. The bill provides that moneys awarded under
21 the school health-related emergency response plan competitive
22 grant program shall be used to supplement, not supplant, existing
23 public funding used by a school district for similar purposes.
24 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July 1,
25 2026.