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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Huebert
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 15, 2022

Subject: HB 2659 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.

House Bill No. 2659 (HB 2659) would enact the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act (Act). The Act would apply to athletic activities, including practices, intermural competitions, interscholastic competitions, and cheerleading. The Act would also apply to both public schools and accredited nonpublic schools.

First, the Act would require the State Department of Education to develop and publish information regarding the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest. This information would be published on the Department's website and made available to students participating in athletic activities, parents of such students, and coaches. Each student wishing to participate in an athletic activity and such student's parent or legal guardian would be required to sign an acknowledgement that they had received and reviewed the information on sudden cardiac arrest provided by the Department. Such signed acknowledgements would be required each school year from all participants.

Second, HB 2659 would require that any student who loses consciousness or faints while participating in an athletic activity or who is known to have lost consciousness or fainted while participating in such activity be removed from further participation by the athletic director, coach, or athletic trainer. A student who exhibits any other symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest may be removed from participation if there is a reasonable belief that the symptoms are cardiac related. A student cannot return to full participation until the student has been evaluated by the appropriate medical professional and cleared to return.

Third, HB 2659 would require each coach of an athletic activity to annually complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course provided by Simon's Heart. A coach would be ineligible to coach unless such course is completed.

Finally, HB 2659 would impose suspension penalties on any coach for failure to remove a student from participation as required by the Act, or for failure to complete the required course. Penalties would entail suspension for the remainder of the athletic season for a first offense, suspension for the remainder of the athletic season and the immediately succeeding season for a second offense, and permanent suspension for a third offense.

If enacted, HB 2659 would become effective on July 1, 2022.