

- SUBJECT:** Requiring automated external defibrillators at schools and athletic events
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Grusendorf, Oliveira, Branch, Delisi, Dutton, Eissler, Hochberg, B. Keffer, Mowery
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Jane Dunnigan, Carol Moore, Texas School Nurses Organization; Barbara Wiley, Cardiac Science, Inc.; Debbie Stewart
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) occurs when the arteries that supply blood to the heart become blocked, the flow of blood which carries oxygen to the heart is slowed or stopped, and the muscle fibers contract chaotically rather than in synch with each other as they normally do. SCA survival rates increase dramatically when there is early access to a defibrillator. Manual defibrillators work by giving the heart a controlled electric shock, forcing all the heart muscles to contract at once and jolting it back into a regular rhythm.

Historically, only trained medical professionals were able to interpret the heart rhythms on manual defibrillator devices. However, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) use embedded computer chips to analyze the rhythms instantly and accurately, making it possible for non-medical professionals to administer the same service without risking an accidental shock.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1406 would require school districts to make AEDs available at each campus and University Interscholastic League athletic competition held in the district. Each district would have to ensure the presence of at least one campus or district employee trained in the proper use of a defibrillator. School districts could seek and accept gifts, grants or other donations to cover the cost of the defibrillators. The bill would not apply to athletic events at which emergency services personnel were present under a contract with the school district.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2005. The bill would apply beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

NOTES:

The committee substitute required each campus to have a defibrillator, allowed districts and campuses to accept donations, and exempted events at which a school district contracts with emergency services personnel.