



BRIAN MAIENSCHNEIN

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 1933

ECG Testing

As Introduced 1/15/2020

Summary

Provides the option of electrocardiogram (ECG) testing for student athletes when they participate in sports and/or receive a sports physical in order to combat and reduce the instances of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in youth.

Background

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the number one killer of student athletes in the US and the leading cause of death on school campuses. The majority of those deaths are attributed to detectable and treatable heart conditions that went undiagnosed. Overall, an average of one in 300 youth has an undetected heart abnormality that could lead to SCA.

Most student athletes are required to take Pre-Participation Examinations for sports (PPEs) however, the examinations are not a comprehensive assessment of heart health. In fact, studies show that most standard exams miss up to 90% of youth at risk because they do not include a robust cardiac risk assessment. Research indicates that electrocardiogram (ECG) testing identifies more youth at risk than health history and physicals alone, with a low false positive rate of ~3% when interpreted by a qualified physician.

Recognizing the importance of early detection and intervention, Pennsylvania and Texas have enacted legislation to educate parents and student athletes about the value of ECG testing during sports physicals.

This Bill

This bill updates AB1639 by offering student athletes information about the opportunity to request an ECG screening as part of the required physical evaluation to participate in school athletic activities, and standardizes the PPE form, which includes nationally adopted cardiac risk assessment questions. Additionally, this bill will also require student athletes be provided with information about ECG screening if they are removed from play for passing out/fainting or another perceived cardiac condition.

Support

Eric Paredes Saves a Life Foundation
(Sponsor)

Contact Info

Michael Chen
(916)319-2077
Michael.chen@asm.ca.gov