

## Bill of the Week

# Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (SF 2474)

This bill requires the Department of Education to study school preparedness for cardiac emergencies and report back to the Iowa Legislature.

### ☑ Key Points & Impacts

- The American Heart Association asked for this bill to make sure schools have access to an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), staff are trained and able to operate the device, and all schools have a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan in place to guarantee quick response in cardiac emergencies.
- “Cardiac Emergency Response Plan” outlines how school employees and others react when someone is in cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency.
- During subcommittee work on this bill, it became apparent that no one knows which schools already have cardiac emergency response plans in place and where AEDs are available.
- Schools also suggested that cardiac emergency response plans be included in their broader emergency response plans, instead of creating a separate one.
- This is an important bill because it will eventually lead to a more structured and uniform cardiac emergency response in schools.
- This means that the same safety measures are in place for every student no matter where they go to school, where they compete in an athletic event or how long it takes for EMTs to arrive on the scene.
- This is particularly important because many students experiencing cardiac events have never been diagnosed with a heart condition.

### 📢 Facts at a Glance

- This bill applies to all schools – public, non-public, charter, and innovation zone.
- The Department of Education will collect information on the location of AEDs in schools and create a list of schools that have adopted cardiac emergency plans. They will report this back to the Legislature by January 15, 2027.
- Nearly 440,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest each year.
- Over 350,000 cardiac arrests happen outside of a hospital each year, with only 10% surviving because of lack of timely CPR.
- If performed immediately, CPR (or use of AED) can double or triple the chance of survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.
- Sudden cardiac arrest affects 16 people under the age of 18 *every day*.
- Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death on school campuses and the primary cause of death for student athletes.
- Survival rate with no AED use before EMS arrival is 9% - survival rate with AED use before EMS arrival is 38%.

Source: [American Heart Association](#); [Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation](#); [Journal of Athletic Training](#)

## About the Sponsor

The American Heart Association was founded in 1924 by six cardiologists. The AHA mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. They have invested more than \$6 billion in research over their 100 years of work.

