

HOUSE No. 2556

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marcus S. Vaughn

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to AEDs for athletic fields.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/3/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>12/3/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2556

By Representative Vaughn of Wrentham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2556) of Marcus S. Vaughn that cities and towns and schools be required to provide and maintain automated external defibrillators at athletic fields, parks and playgrounds. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3924 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to AEDs for athletic fields.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 26. (a) Each municipality shall provide and maintain at least 1 automated external
4 defibrillator, AED, at each athletic field, park and playground that is maintained by the
5 municipality. The parks and recreation department of a municipality may, at its discretion,
6 require additional AEDs be provided and maintained by the municipality at any athletic field,
7 park or playground that is maintained by the municipality.

8 (b) Any municipality that is required to provide and maintain an AED pursuant to
9 subsection (a) shall provide mandatory training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of

10 AEDs to: all staff employed by its parks and recreation department; all sports coaches, umpires,
11 referees and other sports officials who participate in athletic events held at athletic fields, parks
12 or playgrounds maintained by the municipality; and any other group as determined by the parks
13 and recreation department of the municipality.

14 (c) The parks and recreation department of each municipality subject to this section may
15 contract on behalf of the municipality for the procurement of AEDs and the mandatory training
16 on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of AEDs required by subsection (b).

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
18 54C and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

19 Section 54C. (a) Each school district, vocational district, charter school, approved private
20 day or residential school and collaborative school shall provide and maintain at least 1 automated
21 external defibrillator, AED, on site at each school facility where instruction is provided. Each
22 school shall have on staff a person who is an AED provider having current certification in a
23 training course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and in the use of an AED in accordance with
24 the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American National Red
25 Cross.

26 (b) Each school district, vocational district, charter school, approved private day or
27 residential school and collaborative school that maintains athletic fields for use in school-
28 sponsored athletic events shall provide and maintain at least 1 AED in the area of the athletic
29 fields. The school administration shall ensure that an AED provider is readily available at any
30 school-sponsored athletic event.

31 (c) Any school system that is required to provide and maintain an AED pursuant to
32 subsections (a) and (b) shall provide mandatory training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and
33 the use of AEDs to all staff employed by the school system, including sports coaches.

34 (d) If a school system is unable to comply with the requirements of this section, the
35 superintendent of the school district, the administration of a private day or residential school or
36 the board of trustees of a charter school, shall request a hardship waiver from the department of
37 elementary and secondary education. The department of elementary and secondary education, in
38 consultation with the department of public health, shall make available to public schools a list of
39 grants and other funding sources that a public school may access to facilitate the purchase of
40 AEDs.

41 (e) Any school staff member who, in good faith, attempts to render emergency care,
42 including cardiopulmonary resuscitation or defibrillation, and does so without compensation,
43 shall not be liable

44 for acts or omissions, other than gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct,
45 resulting from the attempt to render such emergency care.

46 (f) The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the
47 department of public health, shall establish regulations and guidelines for the implementation,
48 training, support and supervision of this section.