

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No. H2556
Title: *An Act relative to AEDs for athletic fields*
Sponsor: Representative Marcus S. Vaughn
Committee: Public Health
Hearing Date: April 2, 2025
Similar Matters: None
Prior History: Refile of H3924 of 2023-2024; Referred to Public Health Committee and reported favorably; Referred to House Ways and Means and recommended ought to pass; No further action taken.
Reporting Deadline: June 1, 2025; extended to July 1, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 45** pertains to public parks, playgrounds, and the public domain.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 71 § 54 C** governs AED requirements for school facilities; certified AED providers; hardship waivers; personal liability; regulations.

Summary:

This bill requires municipalities and school districts to provide and maintain AEDs at athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, and where instruction is provided along with mandatory training to individuals who regulate athletic events (officials, referees, coaches).

SECTION 1 amends M.G.L. Chapter 45 by adding a new section, Section 26.

Section 26:

Subsection (a) requires municipalities to provide and maintain at least 1 AED at each athletic field, park and playground that is maintained by the municipality.

Subsection (b) requires municipalities pursuant to subsection (a) to also provide mandatory training on the use of AEDs to all staff employed by the parks and recreation department who participate in athletic events held at athletic fields, parks, or playgrounds.

Subsection (c) allows parks and recreation departments to contract the procurement of AEDs and the mandatory training on behalf of municipalities subject to this section.

SECTION 2 amends M.G.L. Chapter 71 § 54 C by striking out section 54C and replacing it with a new one.

Section 54C:

Subsection (a) School districts, vocational districts, charter schools, approved private day or residential schools and collaborative schools must provide and maintain at least 1 AED on site where instruction is provided and must staff a person who is a certified AED provider in accordance with the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American National Red Cross.

Subsection (b) requires districts and schools that maintain athletic fields for school-sponsored athletic events to provide and maintain at least 1 AED in the athletic fields and must have an AED provider readily available for said events.

Subsection (c) requires school systems pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) to provide mandatory training on the use of AEDs to all staff employed by the school system, including sports coaches.

Subsection (d) permits the request of a hardship waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for school systems unable to comply with the requirements of this section. DESE must make a list of funding sources to facilitate the school's purchase of AEDs available to public schools.

Subsection (e) safeguards any school staff member from liability for acts or omissions from the attempt to render emergency care.

Subsection (f) DESE, in consultation with DPH, must establish regulations and guidelines for the implementation, training, support and supervision of this section.