

Committee on Public Health

Bill Summary

Bill No.	H2485
Title:	<i>An Act concerning the cardiac health of children and student athletes</i>
Sponsor:	Representative Jay D. Livingstone
Committee:	Public Health
Hearing Date:	July 14, 2025
Similar Matters:	None
Prior History:	New File
Reporting Deadline:	September 12, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 111** pertains to public health.

Summary:

This bill requires registered, licensed and certified health professionals who perform an annual exam on a child aged 19 or younger to ask questions screening heart disease. Any student participating in school or community organizations sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or squads, must receive a physical exam including questions related to heart disease before being able to participate.

SECTION 1 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111 by inserting a news section: Section 245. Children's cardiac safety.

Subsection (a) defines "healthcare professional."

Subsection (b) directs registered, licensed and certified health professionals who perform an annual exam on a child aged 19 or younger to include questions that evaluate a child's family history related to cardiac conditions in that examination. Specific questions to be included in the cardiac condition portion of the child's annual exam are contained within the "Preparticipation Physical Evaluation" form developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, and are enumerated in this section.

Subsection (c) directs the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of public health to issue guidance to public and private schools and require that students in grades kindergarten to 12 on school or community organizations sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squads, must have a physical exam using the "Preparticipation Physical Evaluation" form developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Heart Association's 14 point screening for heart disease in the young before they may participate on the team or squad.

Subsection (d) states that the physical exam must be conducted within 6 weeks to the first day of official practice in an athletic season and must be carried out by a registered, licensed, and certified health care professional. All preparticipation physical evaluations must be updated in accordance with the PPE Monograph developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Heart Association's 14 point screening for heart disease in the young and ask if the student experienced several specific situations enumerated in the bill. The board of education of a public school district and the governing board or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school cannot allow students in grades kindergarten to 12 to participate on school or community organization sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad if they have not completed a Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form and, if applicable, a health history update questionnaire as required under this Act.

Subsection (e) directs the department to create a single form for all Preparticipation Physical Evaluations statewide that includes the contents outlined in subsection (c).

Subsection (f) instructs the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of public health to establish a Childhood Cardiac Screening professional development module. The departments should develop a module adhering to requirements outlined in this Act or adopt the module created by the New Jersey Commissioners of Education and Health. If the commissioners of the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of public health elect to develop a new module, they must complete the module by the 2026-2027 school year and do so in consultation with the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Cardiology, and the the American Heart Association. This module will be posted on the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of public health's website and the link will be made available to several professional health care organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Heart Association, the State Board of Medical Examiners, and the Board of Nursing. Health care providers conducting Childhood Cardiac Screenings will be registered in a database to ensure all providers have successfully completed the required modules. The department of public health must compile and publish on its website an annual report with the total number of exams completed, the number or referrals made to cardiology, and an analysis on the outcomes of this legislation.

Subsection (g) states the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the commissioner of public health, the American Heart Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, should develop a pamphlet providing information on the disease that can cause sudden cardiac arrest to children and their parents. This pamphlet must be updated as necessary, be distributed to all school districts in Massachusetts, and be made available to nonpublic schools upon request. Starting during the 2026-2027 school year, school districts should annually distribute these pamphlets to parents or guardians of students participating in sports. Receipt and review of this pamphlet should be certified in writing by the student and their parent or guardian.

Subsection (h) requires registered, licensed and certified health professionals who perform an annual exam on a child aged 19 or younger to complete the Childhood Cardiac Screening professional development module established by the department of public health under this Act. These health care professionals should maintain proof of module completion.

Subsection (i) The office of consumer affairs and business regulation, the office of public safety and inspections, and the department of elementary and secondary education, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act” and in consultation with the department of public health, must adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.