
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 194

AN ACT CONCERNING CARDIAC SCREENING AND SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION FOR CERTAIN STUDENT ATHLETES.

SUMMARY

Starting in the 2027-28 school year, this bill generally requires public high school students, before participating in interscholastic sports, to have an annual athletics health assessment by a health professional. This must include a physical exam that screens for serious cardiac conditions that could lead to sudden death.

Among other things, the assessment form must include information on relevant patient or family history and whether the provider did an electrocardiogram (EKG) or referred the student for one.

As with other student health assessments under existing law, the bill requires schools to (1) provide the assessment for free if the student is eligible for free or reduced price meals and (2) record the assessment results in the student's health record.

The bill extends to these athletic health assessments certain other provisions that apply to student health assessments under existing law, including those shielding the records from public inspection and requiring a religious exemption (CGS §§ 10-208 & -209).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

ANNUAL ATHLETICS HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Under the bill, the required athletic health assessment for high school student athletes must be done by a qualified health care provider, such as a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant. It must include a physical exam that screens for serious cardiac conditions that could lead to sudden death, with the screening done in line with guidelines set by the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, or another organization focused on pediatric cardiovascular care.

The assessment form, to be supplied by the state Board of Education, must include:

1. a check box for the provider to indicate any patient or family history of serious cardiac symptoms, such as chest pain with exertion or unexplained syncope (fainting), and family history of sudden cardiac death;
2. screening questions for the parent or guardian about family history with these issues, including those listed above or sudden cardiac arrest;
3. any additional screening questions for the provider to answer as he or she deems necessary and appropriate; and
4. check boxes for the provider to indicate whether, based on the assessment, the provider conducted an EKG or referred the student for one and if so, whether he or she then referred the student for additional screening or treatment.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)