

HB 844 -- HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Hruza

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, this bill requires that each school campus in the state install automated external defibrillators (AEDs). School personnel must be trained annually on the use of an AED beginning. Specifications for the AED are provided in the bill, and school districts must designate personnel to maintain and ensure availability for the AED. The AEDs must be located in high traffic and easily accessible areas.

Schools must appoint a program coordinator to be responsible for administration of the AED program and perform additional duties as specified in the bill. The bill requires appropriate training to meet standards set by the American Heart Association, and the training counts for professional development requirements (Section 160.111, RSMo).

The bill establishes the "Stop the Bleed Act", defines "bleeding control kit" and requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop a traumatic blood loss protocol for school personnel by January 1, 2026.

The bill outlines the specific requirements for the blood loss protocol which must include that a bleeding control kit be placed in areas where there is likely to be high traffic or congregation, and areas where risk of injury may be elevated.

Additionally, each district must designate a school nurse or school health care provider, or if no school nurse or school health care provider is available, a school personnel member to receive annual training on the use of a blood control kit.

The bill requires DESE and each school district and charter school to maintain information regarding the traumatic blood loss protocol and the Stop the Bleed national awareness campaign on their respective websites (Section 160.485).

The bill also expands existing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training requirements for employees beginning in the 2025-26 school year to include training on AEDs. Trained employees shall be held harmless and immune for any civil liability for the use of an AED in good faith if they follow standard medical practice (Section 167.624).

The bill requires that beginning with the 2025-26 school year instruction in CPR to include appropriate training in the use of AEDs (Section 170.310).

This bill is similar to HB 1771 (2024) and HB 266 (2025).