SPONSOR: Rep. Ramone & Rep. D. Short & Rep. B. Short & Sen. Cloutier;
Reps. Hudson, Gray, Wilson, Mitchell; Sens. Hocker, Lopez

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 249

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, 80 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home; and

WHEREAS, across the United States nearly 300,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests occur annually; and

WHEREAS, effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chance of survival, but only 32 percent of cardiac arrest victims get CPR from a bystander; and

WHEREAS, a study published in a recent issue of Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes showed that people who view a CPR-instructional video are significantly more likely to attempt life-saving resuscitation; and

WHEREAS, hands-only CPR (CPR with just chest compressions) has been proven to be as effective as CPR with breaths in treating adult cardiac arrest victims; and

WHEREAS, through the teaching of lifesaving CPR and AED skills, Delawareans who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest will have a much improved chance of surviving sudden cardiac arrests.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 41, Title 14 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 4137. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Graduation Requirement.

(a) Beginning with the Class of 2017 all students must have participated in a CPR educational program to be granted a high school diploma from a Delaware high school, regardless of whether the school is public, non-public, or a charter school. This CPR educational program must incorporate both the psychomotor learning and skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator. A licensed teacher shall not be required to be a certified trainer of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to facilitate, provide, or oversee such instruction. But, any course which results in a certification being earned is required to be taught by an authorized CPR/AED instructor, and the course must use:

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(1) an instructional program developed by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross; or

(2) an instructional program which is nationally recognized and is based on the most current national evidence-based Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an external defibrillator.

(b) The individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan of a student with a disability identified under Chapter 31 of this title may modify the content of instruction for CPR required by this section or, if such modification would be ineffective, exempt such student from application of this section.

SYNOPSIS

This bill requires Delaware students to learn CPR to be granted a high school diploma from a Delaware high school beginning with the Class of 2017.

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