Sponsored by:
Senator  FRED H. MADDEN, JR.
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)
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District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senators Beach and Gordon

SYNOPSIS
Requires annual physical examination of child under 19 years of age include certain questions related to cardiac health.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel
AN ACT concerning physical examinations of children and
supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. A licensed health care professional who performs an annual
physical examination of a child 19 years of age or younger shall
include as part of that examination questions that evaluate a child’s
family history related to cardiac conditions contained in the
“Preparticipation Physical Evaluation” form developed jointly by
the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy
of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American
Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic
Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy
of Sports Medicine.

2. a. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the New
Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New
Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, the American Heart
Association, and the New Jersey Chapter of the American College
of Cardiology, shall develop a cardiac screening professional
development module to increase the assessment skills of those
health care practitioners who perform annual physical examinations
of children 19 years of age or younger pursuant to section 1 of
P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
The module shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:
(1) completing and reviewing a detailed medical history with an
emphasis on cardiovascular family history and personal reports of
symptoms;
(2) identifying symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest that may
require follow-up assessment with a cardiologist;
(3) recognizing normal structural changes of the heart;
(4) recognizing prodromal symptoms that precede sudden
cardiac arrest;
(5) performing the cardiovascular physical examination; and
(6) reviewing the major etiologies of sudden unexplained
cardiac death with an emphasis on structural abnormalities and
acquired conditions.

3. The New Jersey Board of Nursing shall require that, in
addition to any other requirements provided by law, an applicant for
renewal of certification as an advanced practice nurse who performs
annual physical examinations of children 19 years of age or
younger, attest that, in the period since the applicant’s certification
was last renewed, the applicant has completed the cardiac screening
professional development module developed pursuant to section 2
of P.L.   , c.  (C.   ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall require that a
person licensed to practice medicine and surgery and who performs
annual physical examinations of children 19 years of age or
younger, as a condition for biennial registration, attest that, in the
period since the person’s last biennial registration, the person has
completed the cardiac screening professional development module
developed pursuant to section 2 of P.L.   , c.  (C.   ) (pending
before the Legislature as this bill).

5. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall require that, in
addition to any other requirements provided for by law, an applicant
for renewal of licensure as a physician assistant who performs
annual physical examinations of children 19 years of age or
younger, attest that, in the period since the person’s license was last
renewed, the person has completed the cardiac screening
professional development module developed pursuant to section 2
of P.L.   , c.  (C.   ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

6. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
Department of Law and Public Safety, pursuant to the
seq.), and in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, shall
adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
next following the date of enactment, but the Director of the
Division of Consumer Affairs and the Commissioner of Health may
take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as
shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill requires that an annual medical examination of any
child under the age of 19 include questions contained in the
“Preparticipation Physical Evaluation” form developed to screen
students seeking to participate in school-sponsored athletics.

The bill further requires that the Commissioner of Health, in
consultation with the New Jersey Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics, the New Jersey Academy of Family
Physicians, the American Heart Association, and the New Jersey
Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, develop a cardiac
screening professional development module, which advanced
practice nurses, physicians, and physician assistants performing
medical examinations would be required to periodically complete. These individuals would be required to attest to their completion of the module upon renewal of certification, registration, or licensure, as applicable.

The bill also requires the development of the cardiac screening professional development module, and requires the professionals who perform annual medical exams of children under 19 to complete the module and attest to having completed it since the last renewal of their certification, registration, or licensure. The bill also directs that the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, adopt rules and regulations (rather than the other way around), and permit anticipatory administrative action prior to the effective date.