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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS  
REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Ciccone, and Britto

Date Introduced: May 31, 2024

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 23-6.5 of the General Laws entitled "Automated External  
2 Defibrillators Required at Public Places" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~CHAPTER 23-6.5~~

4 ~~Automated External Defibrillators Required at Public Places~~

5 CHAPTER 23-6.5

6 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND

7 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

8 SECTION 2. Sections 23-6.5-1 and 23-6.5-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-6.5 entitled  
9 "Automated External Defibrillators Required at Public Places" are hereby amended to read as  
10 follows:

11 **23-6.5-1. Legislative findings.**

12 (1) Approximately three hundred twenty-five thousand (325,000) Americans suffer sudden  
13 cardiac arrest ("SCA") each year and more than ninety-five percent (95%) of them die before  
14 reaching the hospital;

15 (2) In the population of Rhode Island, an estimated one thousand (1,000) residents will die  
16 of cardiac arrest every year;

17 (3) ~~Facilities~~ Health care facilities, as well as facilities that host large numbers of visitors,  
18 are more likely to experience an event that requires an automated external defibrillator ("AED");

1 (4) If defibrillation is performed within five (5) to seven (7) minutes, chances of survival  
2 are increased by forty-nine percent (49%). Every minute that goes by without defibrillation reduces  
3 the chance of survival by seven percent (7%) to ten percent (10%);

4 (5) Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are extremely accurate computerized devices  
5 that can be operated by the average person; and

6 (6) Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) can be acquired through grants from various  
7 organizations or through government agencies.

8 **23-6.5-2. Automated external defibrillators requirements.**

9 ~~(a) As used in this chapter, "public place" means an enclosed area capable of holding three  
10 hundred (300) people or more and to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted,  
11 including, but not limited to: banks; bars; educational facilities; healthcare facilities; laundromats;  
12 public transportation facilities; reception areas; restaurants; retail food production and marketing  
13 establishments; retail service establishments; retail stores; shopping malls; sports arenas;  
14 government offices; theaters; and waiting rooms. A private residence is not a "public place" unless  
15 it is used as a childcare, adult daycare, or healthcare facility.~~

16 ~~(b)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions contained in § 5-50-12 or § 16-21-33.1 relating to  
17 automated external defibrillators in health clubs and schools, any person who owns or operates a  
18 public place or health care facility as defined in ~~subsection (a) of this section~~ § 23-6.5-4 shall  
19 provide and maintain:

20 (1) On-site, functional automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in quantities and types,  
21 deemed by the director of health, to be adequate to ensure ready and appropriate access for use  
22 during emergencies; and

23 (2) At least one person who is properly trained in the operation and use of an AED. Training  
24 required by this chapter may be conducted by qualified personnel, including, but not limited to,  
25 municipal fire and police department employees.

26 SECTION 3. Chapter 23-6.5 of the General Laws entitled "Automated External  
27 Defibrillators Required at Public Places" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following  
28 section:

29 **23-6.5-4. Definitions.**

30 The following definitions govern the construction of this chapter:

31 (1) "Health care facility" means any healthcare facility licensed by the department of health  
32 including any institutional health-service provider, facility, or institution, place, building, agency,  
33 or portion thereof, whether a partnership or corporation, whether public or private, whether  
34 organized for profit or not, used, operated, or engaged in providing healthcare services, including,

1 but not limited to: hospitals; nursing facilities; rehabilitation centers; kidney disease treatment  
2 centers; health maintenance organizations; and facilities providing surgical treatment to patients  
3 not requiring hospitalization (surgi-centers); hospice care, and physician ambulatory-surgery  
4 centers and podiatry ambulatory-surgery centers providing surgical treatment. The term "health  
5 care facility" also includes organized ambulatory-care facilities that are not part of a hospital but  
6 that are organized and operated to provide healthcare services to outpatients, such as: central-  
7 services facilities serving more than one health care facility or healthcare provider; treatment  
8 centers; diagnostic centers; outpatient clinics; infirmaries and health centers; school-based health  
9 centers, and neighborhood health centers. The term "health care facility" also includes a  
10 practitioner's (physician, dentist, or other healthcare provider) office or group of practitioners'  
11 offices (whether owned and/or operated by a hospital or an affiliate of a hospital or an individual  
12 practitioner, alone or as a member of a partnership, professional service corporation, organization,  
13 or association.

14 (2) "Public place" means an enclosed area capable of holding three hundred (300) people  
15 or more and to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted, including, but not  
16 limited to: banks; bars; educational facilities; laundromats; public transportation facilities;  
17 reception areas; restaurants; retail food production and marketing establishments; retail service  
18 establishments; retail stores; shopping malls; sports arenas; government offices; theaters; and  
19 waiting rooms. A private residence is not a "public place" unless it is used as a childcare or adult  
20 daycare facility.

21 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2024.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS  
REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

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1           This act would require all health care facilities to provide functional automated external  
2 defibrillators (AEDs) and least one person who is properly trained in the operation and use of an  
3 AED.

4           This act would take effect on September 1, 2024.

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