

2026 -- H 8366

LC006077

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives Fascia, and Corvese

Date Introduced: March 27, 2026

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-6.5-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-6.5 entitled "Automated
2 External Defibrillators Required at Public Places and Healthcare Facilities" is hereby amended to
3 read as follows:

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

5 The following definitions govern the construction of this chapter:

6 (1) "Healthcare facility" means any healthcare facility licensed by the department of health
7 including any institutional health-service provider, facility, or institution, place, building, agency,
8 or portion thereof, whether a partnership or corporation, whether public or private, whether
9 organized for profit or not, used, operated, or engaged in providing healthcare services, including,
10 but not limited to: hospitals; nursing facilities; rehabilitation centers; kidney disease treatment
11 centers; health maintenance organizations; and facilities providing surgical treatment to patients
12 not requiring hospitalization (surgi-centers); hospice care; ~~and~~ physician ambulatory-surgery
13 centers and podiatry ambulatory-surgery centers providing surgical treatment; and any center for
14 independent living pursuant to § 42-12.2-2. The term "healthcare facility" also includes organized
15 ambulatory-care facilities that are not part of a hospital but that are organized and operated to
16 provide healthcare services to outpatients, such as: central-services facilities serving more than one
17 healthcare facility or healthcare provider; treatment centers; diagnostic centers; outpatient clinics;
18 infirmaries and health centers; school-based health centers; and neighborhood health centers. The

1 term “healthcare facility” also includes a practitioner’s (physician, dentist, or other healthcare
2 provider) office or group of practitioners’ offices (whether owned and/or operated by a hospital or
3 an affiliate of a hospital or an individual practitioner, alone or as a member of a partnership,
4 professional service corporation, organization, or association).

5 (2) “Public place” means an enclosed area capable of holding three hundred (300) people
6 or more and to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted, including, but not
7 limited to: banks; bars; educational facilities; laundromats; public or private golf courses; public
8 transportation facilities; reception areas; restaurants; retail food production and marketing
9 establishments; retail service establishments; retail stores; shopping malls; sports arenas;
10 government offices; theaters; and waiting rooms. A private residence is not a “public place” unless
11 it is used as a childcare or adult daycare facility.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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- 1 This act would add centers for independent living pursuant to § 42-12.2-2 to the healthcare
- 2 facilities required to have automated external defibrillators on site.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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