

2017 -- H 6308

LC002831

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS  
REQUIRED

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, McNamara, Solomon, Cunha, and Coughlin

Date Introduced: June 08, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 6.5

4 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES

5 **23-6.5-1. Legislative findings.**

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

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

11 (3) Facilities that host large numbers of visitors are more likely to experience an event  
12 which requires an automated external defibrillator ("AED");

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

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

18 (6) Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) can be acquired through grants from

1 various organizations or through government agencies.

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

3 (a) As used in this chapter, "public place" means an enclosed area capable of holding  
4 three hundred (300) people or more and to which the public is invited or in which the public is  
5 permitted, including, but not limited to, banks, bars, educational facilities, health care facilities,  
6 laundromats, public transportation facilities, reception areas, restaurants, retail food production  
7 and marketing establishments, retail service establishments, retail stores, shopping malls, sports  
8 arenas, government offices, theaters, and waiting rooms. A private residence is not a "public  
9 place" unless it is used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility.

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

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

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

19 **23-6.5-3. Rules and regulations.**

20 The director of health is hereby authorized to adopt, modify, repeal, or promulgate rules  
21 and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS  
REQUIRED

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- 1           This act would require an automated external defibrillator (AED) and qualified person to
- 2 administer an AED at all public places capable of holding three hundred (300) people or more.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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