

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1054 (Chairman, Health and Government Operations Committee) (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Automated External Defibrillator Program**

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This departmental bill modifies requirements for the operation of automated external defibrillation (AED) equipment.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's changes could be handled with existing Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill expands the circumstances in which an individual may use an AED by allowing an individual to operate an AED without restricting operation to an authorized facility. It also removes age of majority requirements for authorized operation of an AED.

The bill changes a facility's certification requirements that currently require a facility to have a sponsoring physician. Under the bill, a facility may qualify for a certificate by having medical direction by a sponsoring physician or the Regional Council AED Committee. The bill creates Regional Councils and Regional Council AED committees to provide the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board with better regulatory oversight.

**Current Law:** The EMS Board regulates the use of AEDs through the Automated External Defibrillator Program. The EMS Board may set a reasonable fee to approximate the cost of maintaining the certification program. An individual may not operate AED equipment unless it is operated through an authorized facility. This requirement does not apply to an individual who has successfully completed an AED training course and is current authorized to provide AED in the state where the individual resides or works. A facility must be certified to operate AED. To qualify for a certificate, a facility must have a sponsoring physician. It must also ensure that each individual who operates an AED for the facility has successfully completed an educational training course and refresher training and be at least 18 years of age. An individual 16-18 may be authorized to operate an AED with written permission from a parent or legal guardian.

**Background:** Early access to defibrillation increases a patient's chances of surviving cardiac arrest since the chance for survival decreases 7-10% for each minute that passes after cardiac arrest.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 2005  
ncs/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2005

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