

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 742

(Senator Klausmeier)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Swimming Pools - Automated External Defibrillator Programs - Study

This bill requires the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) in consultation with stakeholders to study whether automated external defibrillators (AEDs) should be provided on site at swimming pools in Maryland. MIEMSS must examine • which swimming pools should be required to provide AEDs; • whether the presence of individuals trained in the use of AEDs should be required at swimming pools; and • the safety of providing an AED at a swimming pool. MIEMSS also must recommend other locations that should be required to have AEDs. By December 1, 2007, MIEMSS must report its findings and recommendations to specified legislative committees.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 167 of 1999, which created the Automated External Defibrillator Program, authorizes a facility to make AED available to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The program is administered by the Emergency Medical Services Board, which certifies

facilities to operate AEDs. A certificate is valid for three years and is not required for a health care facility, a licensed commercial ambulance service, or a jurisdictional emergency medical service. The board also sets fees for certificates and other AED program services to approximate program costs. All fees collected are distributed to the Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund.

Background: Most AEDs are about the size of a laptop computer. They analyze a cardiac arrest victim's cardiac rhythm, charge to an appropriate energy level, and deliver an electric charge, as directed by the operator, through adhesive pads placed on the victim's chest. AEDs range in price from \$800 for a refurbished unit to more than \$4,000.

The American Red Cross of Central Maryland offers on-site AED operation training. AED training may be scheduled with CPR training (4.5 hours) or with CPR and first aid training (7.5 hours). The AED course includes: (1) interactive training on AED use; (2) interactive training and certification in adult CPR; (3) practice scenarios; (4) a skills card allowing employees to continue practicing after completing the course; and (5) first aid instruction if desired.

Maryland AED Program

There are 746 facilities in Maryland, with a total of 1,862 sites, authorized to participate in the Automated External Defibrillation Program. Each facility applying for AED certification pays a \$25 application fee. Certification is valid for three years if the facility continues to comply with the program's requirements. Swimming pool operators and owners currently are not required to participate in the AED program.

Federal and State Actions

The Federal Aviation Administration, in response to the Aviation Medical Assistance Act of 1998, issued a final ruling on April 12, 2001 that requires U.S. airlines to carry AEDs on planes that weigh 7,500 pounds and have at least one flight attendant. The deadline for complying with this rule was May 12, 2004.

The state of New York enacted legislation in 2001 authorizing a \$500 tax credit for businesses and individuals that purchase AEDs after January 1, 2001. Legislation enacted in 2002 by the state requires primary and secondary schools to be equipped with AEDs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): City of Havre de Grace, Kent County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Worcester County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of Legislative Services

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