

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 369

(Senator Watson, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

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Public Libraries - Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A.  
Russell Act)

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This bill requires each “library,” beginning January 1, 2026, to (1) place an automated external defibrillator (AED) in a prominent area, accessible to employees and library users; (2) comply with the Maryland Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program; and (3) maintain the functionality of the AED. By December 1, 2026, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) must submit a specified report to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** MIEMSS can ensure library compliance with the Maryland Public Access AED Program and complete the required report with existing budgeted resources. The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) can implement the bill’s requirements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local government expenditures increase beginning in FY 2026, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Library” means each branch of a county library system or the Enoch Pratt Free Library. “Library” does not include a (1) school library established by a local school system; (2) a mobile library unit; or (3) a correctional facility library.

In addition to any other immunities available under statutory or common law, a library is not civilly liable for any act or omission in the provision of automated external defibrillation if the library has satisfied specified requirements. An individual is not civilly liable for any act or omission if (1) the individual is acting in good faith while rendering automated external defibrillation to another individual who is the victim or is reasonably believed to be a victim of sudden cardiac arrest; (2) the assistance or aid is provided in a reasonably prudent manner; and (3) the automated external defibrillation is provided without fee or other compensation. A library or individual is not civilly liable for failing to render automated external defibrillation to an individual who is a victim or is reasonably believed to be a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, as specified.

By December 1, 2026, MIEMSS must report on the libraries that registered AEDs in accordance with the bill and the number of adverse cardiac events that required the use of an AED experienced in those libraries.

**Current Law:** “Automated external defibrillator” means a medical heart monitor and defibrillator device that (1) is cleared for market by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA); (2) recognizes the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia; (3) determines, without intervention by an operator, whether defibrillation should be performed, and on determining that defibrillation should be performed, automatically charges; and (4) either requires operator intervention to deliver the electrical impulse or automatically continues with delivery of the electrical impulse.

### *State Library Network*

Since 1888, the State has provided funds to support public libraries throughout the State under what is now known as the State library network. The network consists of the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library System in Baltimore City, three regional resource centers (Charlotte Hall, Hagerstown, and Salisbury), and metropolitan cooperative service programs. All these systems receive State funding for operating expenses. The Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library operates as the designated State Library Resource Center (SLRC).

MSLA administers State and federal funding for Maryland’s libraries and provides strategic leadership, resources, and support for local, regional, and State libraries. MSLA oversees Maryland’s 24 public library systems, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, SLRC, the three regional resource centers, and the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library.

## *Maryland Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program*

The Maryland Public Access AED Program permits an organization, business, association, or agency that meets specified requirements to make AEDs available to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Chapter 764 of 2024 expanded the program to include an initiative to co-locate up to two doses of naloxone (an FDA-approved medication for the reversal of opioid overdose) with each AED placed in a public building. MIEMSS oversees the program, including approving entities to participate and issuing registrations.

Under Maryland regulations (COMAR [30.06.02.01](#)), to be eligible for registration or renewal of registration, each facility must designate an AED coordinator who must:

- complete cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED training and subsequent refresher training, in accordance with specified requirements;
- be responsible for implementing and administering the AED program at the facility; and
- ensure that monthly safety inspections of all supplemental and AED equipment are conducted.

Likewise, a facility must ensure that all expected AED operators have completed CPR and AED training and subsequent refresher training, as specified. AEDs must be placed in locations that are visible and readily accessible to any person willing to operate the AED in the event of a suspected cardiac arrest. A facility at which an AED is operated must have a telephone or communication service available at all times for the notification of a public safety answering point; it must also submit data or other information concerning the AED program as requested by MIEMSS.

Chapters 304 and 305 of 2023 require each owner and operator of a grocery store or a specified restaurant, beginning January 1, 2025, to place an AED in a prominent area and maintain its functionality. A grocery store or restaurant that is excluded from the Maryland Public Access AED Program must still register with MIEMSS.

**Local Expenditures:** Expenditures for county library systems in many jurisdictions increase in fiscal 2026 to ensure that each library has an AED and appropriately trained library staff. Based on a brief survey of public library systems conducted by MSLA in which about two-thirds of the 27 library systems responded, some libraries (including county libraries) in the State have AEDs and appropriately trained staff. More specifically, at least 8 have AEDs and trained staff at all locations, at least 4 have AEDs at some branches with some trained staff, and at least 6 have no AEDs at any location.

**Additional Comments:** New AED units typically cost between \$880 and \$2,000, and certified pre-owned AEDs generally range from \$500 to \$880. The American Red Cross  
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offers CPR and AED training courses that cost between \$75 and \$115 per person. It holds on-site AED training at several locations in Maryland, including Annapolis, Baltimore, Salisbury, Silver Spring, and Walkersville. Online classes are also offered at a cost of \$37.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years; however, legislation with similar provisions has been proposed. For example, see HB 1206 of 2023 and SB 294 of 2022.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 593 (Delegate Boaf, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Library Agency; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2025  
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