

# HOUSE BILL 276

J1

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0224  
CF SB 24

---

By: **Chair, Health Committee (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems)**

Requested: October 1, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Health

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2026

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Emergency Medical Services Board – Public Access Automated External**  
3 **Defibrillator Program – Revisions**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program,  
5 including by establishing requirements regarding an automated external  
6 defibrillator (AED) coordinator, repealing certain provisions of law regarding  
7 regional council AED committees, and exempting certain law enforcement agencies  
8 from being required to obtain a certificate for an AED deployed in a patrol vehicle of  
9 the law enforcement agency; establishing certain certification qualifications for  
10 grocery stores and restaurants under the Program; and generally relating to the  
11 Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 13–517  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Health – General  
19 Section 21–330.3(c)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
2 Article – Public Safety  
3 Section 2–101(a) and (g)  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Education**

9 13–517.

10 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 **(2) “AED COORDINATOR” MEANS THE INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY A**  
12 **REGISTERED ENTITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**  
13 **SECTION.**

14 **[(2)] (3)** “Automated external defibrillator (AED)” means a medical heart  
15 monitor and defibrillator device that:

16 (i) Is cleared for market by the **[federal] U.S.** Food and Drug  
17 Administration;

18 (ii) Recognizes the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or  
19 rapid ventricular tachycardia;

20 (iii) Determines, without intervention by an operator, whether  
21 defibrillation should be performed;

22 (iv) On determining that defibrillation should be performed,  
23 automatically charges; and

24 (v) 1. Requires operator intervention to deliver the electrical  
25 impulse; or

26 2. Automatically continues with delivery of electrical  
27 impulse.

28 **[(3)] (4)** “Certificate” means a certificate issued by the EMS Board to a  
29 registered **[facility] ENTITY.**

1            [(4) (i) (5)        ["Facility"] "ENTITY" means AN ORGANIZATION, A  
2 BUSINESS, AN ASSOCIATION, an agency, [an association,] a corporation, a firm, OR a  
3 partnership[, or any other entity] IN THE STATE.

4            [(ii) "Facility" does not include a grocery store or restaurant that is  
5 subject to § 21–330.3 of the Health – General Article.]

6            [(5) (6)        "Jurisdictional emergency medical services operational program"  
7 means the institution, agency, corporation, or other entity that has been approved by the  
8 EMS Board to provide oversight of emergency medical services for each of the local  
9 government and State and federal emergency medical services programs.

10            (7)        "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
11 2–101 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

12            [(6) (8)        "Program" means the Public Access Automated External  
13 Defibrillator Program.

14            [(7) "Regional administrator" means the individual employed by the  
15 Institute as regional administrator in each EMS region.

16            (8)        "Regional council" means an EMS advisory body as created by the Code  
17 of Maryland Regulations 30.05.

18            (9)        "Regional council AED committee" means a committee appointed by the  
19 regional council consisting of:

20                    (i)        The regional medical director;

21                    (ii)       The regional administrator; and

22                    (iii)      Three or more individuals with knowledge of and expertise in  
23 AEDs.]

24            [(10) (9)        "Registered [facility"] ENTITY" means an [organization, a  
25 business association, an agency, or any other] entity that meets the requirements of the  
26 EMS Board for registering with the Program.

27            (b)        (1)        There is a Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program.

28                    (2)        The purpose of the Program is to:

29                            (i)        Coordinate an effective statewide public access defibrillation  
30 program; and

1 (ii) Implement the initiative to co-locate naloxone with automated  
2 external defibrillators placed in public buildings, as required under § 13-518 of this  
3 subtitle.

4 (3) The Program shall be administered by the EMS Board.

5 (c) The EMS Board may:

6 (1) Adopt regulations for the administration of the Program;

7 (2) Issue and renew certificates to [facilities] ENTITIES that meet the  
8 requirements of this section;

9 (3) Deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the certificate of a registered  
10 [facility] ENTITY for failure to meet the requirements of this section;

11 (4) Approve educational and training programs required under this section  
12 that:

13 (i) Are conducted by any private or public entity; AND

14 (ii) [Include training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and  
15 automated external defibrillation; and

16 (iii)] May include courses from nationally recognized [entities]  
17 ORGANIZATIONS such as the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and  
18 the National Safety Council; AND

19 [(5) Approve the protocol for the use of an AED; and]

20 [(6)] (5) Delegate to the Institute any portion of its authority under this  
21 section.

22 (d) (1) [Each facility] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS  
23 SUBSECTION, EACH ENTITY that desires to make automated external defibrillation  
24 available shall possess a valid certificate from the EMS Board.

25 (2) This subsection does not apply to:

26 (i) A jurisdictional emergency medical services operational  
27 program;

28 (ii) A licensed commercial ambulance service;

29 (iii) A health care facility as defined in § 19-114 of the  
30 Health – General Article; or

(iv) A place of business for health care practitioners who are licensed as dentists under Title 4 of the Health Occupations Article or as physicians under Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article and are authorized to use an AED in accordance with that license.

**(3) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE FOR AN AED DEPLOYED IN A PATROL VEHICLE OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**

(e) **(1) ~~To~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO** qualify for **AND RETAIN** a certificate [a facility] **AN ENTITY** shall:

~~(1)~~ **(I)** [Comply with the written protocol approved by the EMS Board] **HAVE A WRITTEN PLAN** for the use of an AED [which] **THAT** includes [notification of] **A REQUIREMENT THAT THE ENTITY NOTIFY** the emergency medical services system through the use of the 911 universal emergency access number as soon as possible on the use of an AED;

~~(2)~~ **(II)** Have established [automated external defibrillator] **AED** maintenance, placement, operation, **AND** reporting[, and quality improvement] procedures as required by the EMS Board;

~~(3)~~ **(III)** [Maintain] **REQUIRE THE AED COORDINATOR TO MAINTAIN THE FUNCTIONALITY OF** each AED and all related equipment and supplies in accordance with the standards established by the device manufacturer and the [federal] **U.S.** Food and Drug Administration;

[(4) Ensure that each individual who is expected to operate an AED for the registered facility has successfully completed an educational training course and refresher training as required by the EMS Board; and]

~~(4)~~ **(IV) REQUIRE THE AED COORDINATOR TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE LOCATION AND OPERATION OF THE AED AMONG POTENTIAL OR FORESEEABLE AED OPERATORS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY; AND**

~~(5)~~ **(V)** If the [facility] **ENTITY** is a public building, meet any requirements established under § 13–518 of this subtitle relating to the co–location of naloxone with each AED maintained [in] **BY** the [facility] **ENTITY**.

**(2) FOR AN ENTITY THAT IS A GROCERY STORE OR RESTAURANT, TO QUALIFY FOR AND RETAIN A CERTIFICATE, THE ENTITY SHALL:**

**(1) REGISTER THE NAME OF THE ENTITY WITH THE PROGRAM;**  
**AND**

1                   **(II) MAINTAIN THE FUNCTIONALITY OF EACH AED AND ALL**  
2 **RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS**  
3 **ESTABLISHED BY THE DEVICE MANUFACTURER AND THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG**  
4 **ADMINISTRATION.**

5           (f)     **IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THIS SECTION,**  
6 **AN ENTITY OTHER THAN A GROCERY STORE OR RESTAURANT THAT IS SUBJECT TO §**  
7 **21-330.3 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE SHALL ENSURE THAT THE AED**  
8 **COORDINATOR HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN EDUCATIONAL TRAINING**  
9 **COURSE AND ANY REFRESHER TRAINING COURSES AS REQUIRED BY THE EMS**  
10 **BOARD.**

11           **(G)**    A registered [facility] ENTITY shall report the use of an AED to the Institute  
12 [for review by the regional council AED committee] **USING THE FORM PROVIDED BY THE**  
13 **INSTITUTE.**

14           **[(g)] (H)**    [A facility] AN ENTITY that desires to [establish] **OBTAIN** or renew a  
15 certificate shall:

- 16                   (1)    Submit an application on the form that the EMS Board requires; and  
17                   (2)    Meet the requirements under this section.

18           **[(h)] (I)**    (1)    The EMS Board shall issue a new or a renewed certificate to [a  
19 facility] AN ENTITY that meets the requirements of this section.

20                   (2)    Each certificate shall include:

- 21                           (i)    The type of certificate;  
22                           (ii)   The full name and address of the [facility] ENTITY;  
23                           (iii) A unique identification number; and  
24                           (iv)   The dates of issuance and expiration of the certificate.

25                   (3)    A certificate is valid for 3 years.

26           **[(i)] (J)**    The EMS Board may issue a cease and desist order or obtain injunctive  
27 relief if [a facility] AN ENTITY makes automated external defibrillation available in  
28 violation of this section.



1 (c) [Beginning January 1, 2025, each] EACH owner and operator of a grocery  
2 store or restaurant shall:

3 (1) Place an automated external defibrillator in a prominent area,  
4 accessible to employees and customers; ~~and~~

5 ~~†(2)~~ Maintain the functionality of the automated external defibrillator~~†~~;  
6 AND

7 ~~(2)~~ (3) COMPLY WITH THE APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
8 PUBLIC ACCESS AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM PROVIDED  
9 UNDER § 13-517 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

10 Article – Public Safety

11 2-101.

12 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

13 (g) (1) “Law enforcement agency” means a law enforcement agency of a  
14 department, county, or municipal corporation of the State.

15 (2) “Law enforcement agency” includes:

16 (i) sheriffs; and

17 (ii) similar agencies of other states and the United States.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.