

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 32
Judiciary

(Delegate Simmons)

Local Law Enforcement Vehicles - Requirements - Automated External Defibrillators

This bill requires each local law enforcement vehicle to carry an automated external defibrillator (AED) and each local law enforcement agency to maintain the functionality of each AED.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only applies to local law enforcement agencies.

Local Effect: Local government expenditures increase, potentially significantly in some jurisdictions, in FY 2027, with ongoing costs in future years. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “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; (4) on determining that defibrillation should be performed, automatically charges; and (5) requires operator intervention to deliver the electrical impulse or automatically continues with delivery of the electrical impulse.

Current Law: 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. The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (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.

Chapters 613 and 614 of 2025 require each library, beginning January 1, 2026, to place an AED in a prominent area, accessible to employees and library users, comply with the Maryland Public Access AED Program, and maintain the functionality of the AED. “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.

Statute also requires each county board of education to develop and implement an AED program that meets certain requirements for each middle school and high school in the county.

State law does not require local law enforcement vehicles to be equipped with AEDs.

Local Expenditures: Local expenditures increase beginning in fiscal 2027 to ensure that each local law enforcement vehicle has an AED and appropriately trained staff. In some jurisdictions, the increase is likely significant, particularly in the first year, as local law enforcement agencies purchase AED equipment. Based on a limited survey of affected jurisdictions, the following information was gleaned:

- Baltimore City advises that its expenditures increase by approximately \$6.0 million in fiscal 2027 to equip all law enforcement vehicles with AED equipment, with ongoing costs in future years to replace electrode packs (and eventually replace AED equipment);
- the City of Frostburg reports the need for approximately 14 AEDs at a total cost of approximately \$29,000 in fiscal 2027;
- Harford County advises that although approximately 102 law enforcement vehicles are already equipped with AEDs, in order to meet the bill's requirements, an additional 368 AEDs are needed at a total cost of approximately \$830,000 in fiscal 2027;
- Montgomery County reports that its expenditures increase by approximately \$4.0 million in fiscal 2027 to (1) purchase approximately 1,500 AEDs to equip all county law enforcement vehicles with AEDs and (2) hire additional staff to maintain the functionality of each AED; the county anticipates significant ongoing costs in future years related to staffing, upkeep, and maintenance;
- the Maryland Association of Counties advises that AED devices that meet the bill's requirements cost between \$1,500 to \$2,500 per vehicle; as a result, statewide, there is a multi-million-dollar fiscal effect for counties; and
- the Maryland Municipal League (MML) advises that the bill results in new recurring expenditures at the municipal level; MML notes that while the precise impact depends on fleet size and local procurement practices, every jurisdiction with its own law enforcement vehicles incurs increased costs.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Harford and Montgomery counties; Maryland Association of Counties; cities of College Park and Frostburg; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Legislative Services

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