

SB 369 - Letter of Support.pdf

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Position: FAV



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute *for* Emergency Medical Services Systems

Wes W. Moore
Governor

Clay B. Stamp
Chairman EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 369 – Public Libraries – Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A. Russell Act)

Position: SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Dear Senator Feldman:

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), as part of its mission, supports a number of public efforts to provide emergency care before and until EMS arrives at the scene of a medical emergency. A prime example is the agency's statutory oversight of the State's Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program. This program, which is housed under §13-517 of the Education Article, requires non-healthcare facilities that place AEDs on their premises to meet certain requirements, including registration with MIEMSS and education and training for operators. Facilities register with MIEMSS through the online Maryland AED registry (www.marylandaedregistry.org). Currently, in Maryland, there are over 16,000 AEDs in more than 8,000 locations, with thousands of individuals trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED use. When an AED is applied to a victim of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Maryland, survival is greater than four times more likely.

Maryland's Public Access AED Program welcomes expansion of the availability of AEDs, thereby increasing the chances of survival for those who experience cardiac arrest. To that end, MIEMSS supports SB 369 as amended, which would require all libraries (as defined in the bill) to place and maintain the functionality of an AED on site, and meet the registration, training, and other requirements of "facilities" under §13-517. The passage of this legislation would reflect the General Assembly's ongoing commitment to providing greater access to life-saving emergency care throughout our state.

We therefore urge a favorable report on SB 369.

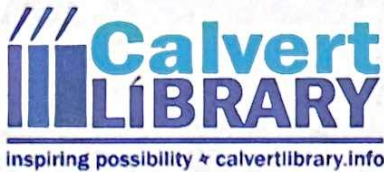
Sincerely,

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

Letter requesting amendment to SB369_Carrie_Willso

Uploaded by: Carrie Willson

Position: FWA



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BILL:	SB369 – Public Libraries Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A. Russell Act)	DATE:	February 12, 2025
SUBJECT:	AEDs in public libraries	COMMITTEE:	Education, Energy & the Environment
TESTIMONY FROM:	Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library	POSITION:	Support with amendment

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee,

I respectfully request an amendment to **SB369 – Public Libraries Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A. Russell Act)**. This bill requires public libraries to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in each facility and to have that device registered with the MD Department of Health and the MD Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). I respectfully ask that 23-102.2 (B) (3), requiring a trained operator be present any time the library is open, be struck from the bill.

Calvert Library locations have had an AED device for many years. Calvert County Government installed them, maintains them and has them registered with MIEMSS and the national registry. We offer the County’s first aid and CPR training to library staff when the County has open seats and it works with the branch staffing schedule. Calvert Library locations are open 57 hours a week. It would be an undue burden for managers to ensure that there is someone trained in the use of AEDs each hour that we are open at all four locations.

Alternatively, we could train each of our 86 public service staff every two years. The County does not have the capacity to add an adequate number of seats for our staff, we would have to hire trainers, which is not financially feasible for our system.

I appreciate this effort to improve safety in one of our most visible public spaces. However, I respectfully request that the training requirement be removed in order to make this implementable across the state

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson
Executive Director, Calvert Library

