



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 Vanessa E. Atterbary  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 593 – Public Libraries – Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A. Russell Act)

Position: SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Dear Delegate Atterbary:

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](http://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 HB 593 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 HB 593.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director