

ADRIAN BOAFO
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ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chair Vanessa Atterbeary
Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 130
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,
This legislation ensures that automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are present and accessible in public libraries across Maryland, with staff trained to use them in the event of a medical emergency.

This bill was introduced in memory of Raymano A. Russell, a constituent of District 23 and a dedicated postal worker, who tragically suffered cardiac arrest while on his route at the Crofton Library. At that critical moment, an AED was not available, a reality that may have contributed to his untimely passing. His story highlights an urgent gap in emergency preparedness within our public spaces.

HB593 addresses this issue by:

- Requiring all public libraries in Maryland to have at least one AED on-site, ensuring that these life-saving devices are readily accessible in the event of a cardiac emergency.
- Mandating AED training for library staff, equipping them with the necessary skills to respond effectively to medical emergencies.
- Establishing maintenance and accessibility requirements to ensure AEDs remain in working condition and can be quickly located when needed.

Libraries are vital community hubs where residents of all ages gather daily—from children attending storytime to seniors utilizing resources and services. Given their central role in our communities, it is critical that they are equipped to handle medical emergencies. Immediate access to an AED can mean the difference between life and death, and this legislation ensures that our libraries are prepared to save lives when seconds matter most.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB593.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Boafo".

Delegate Adrian Boafo