

**SB 0024 MRHA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Estelle Yeung

Position: FAV



## **Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)**

To the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Chair: Senator Brian J. Feldman  
February 16, 2026

### **Senate Bill 0024: State Emergency Medical Services Board - Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program - Revisions**

#### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0024: State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board - Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program - Revisions.

The MRHA supports SB 0024, which expands Maryland's Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program by establishing requirements for an AED coordinator and exempting certain law enforcement agencies from requirements for an AED certificate deployed in a patrol vehicle.

In comparison to urban communities, rural communities across the United States experience longer emergency response times, limited EMS resources, and decreased access to AEDs.<sup>1</sup> However, after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in rural areas, use of an AED by a bystander has been shown to be strongly associated with survival outcomes. Additionally, targeted AED programs in rural communities have significantly improved survival after an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Requiring entities to have a written plan for AED use and requiring an AED coordinator to maintain the functionality of each AED will ensure the efficacy of AEDs in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest.<sup>2</sup> Adding these requirements at the state level will standardize AED practices across organizations. Expanding access to AEDs and holding organizations accountable for them will save lives in Maryland, especially in rural communities.

MRHA believes this legislation is important to support our rural communities and we urge you to support its passage.

With appreciation,  
The Maryland Rural Health Association

1. Grubic N, Peng YP, Walker M, Brooks SC. Bystander-initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest: Uncovering disparities in care and survival across the urban-rural spectrum. *Resuscitation*. 2022;175:150-158. <https://www.sciencedirect.com.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/science/article/pii/S0300957222001320>. doi: 10.1016/j.resuscitation.2022.04.014.
2. Who is qualified to perform inspections on AEDs? Code One Web site. <https://code1web.com/learning-center/who-is-qualified-to-perform-inspections-on-aeds/>. Accessed Jan 30, 2026.

P.O. Box 3128 LaVale, MD 21504

# **Fav AHA SB 24 State EMS Board Public Access to AED**

Uploaded by: Laura Hale

Position: FAV



February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Testimony of Laura Hale  
American Heart Association

**Favorable SB 24 State Emergency Medical Services Board - Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program - Revisions**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration. The American Heart Association extends its support to SB 24 State Emergency Medical Services Board - Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program - Revisions. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association.

Cardiac arrests can happen anywhere, and having AED's readily accessible in public space can make the difference between life and death. We appreciate the thoughtful ways the code has been updated and the drive to increase access to AEDs. Every minute counts when a sudden cardiac arrest happens, having easy access for the public as well as sudden cardiac plans in place can save a life.

The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on SB 24.

# **Letter of Support for SB0024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 416  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3565  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565  
Mike.McKay@senate.maryland.gov

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

*Cumberland Office*  
100N Mechanic Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
240-362-7040

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Program Open Space and Agricultural  
Land Preservation

*Williamsport Office*  
2N Conococheque Street  
Williamsport Town Hall  
Williamsport, Maryland

February 10, 2026

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for SB0024

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

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for **Senate Bill 24: State Emergency Medical Services Board - Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program - Revisions**. This bill will alter the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program, including by establishing requirements regarding an automated external defibrillator (AED) coordinator, repealing certain provisions of law regarding regional council AED committees, and exempting certain law enforcement agencies from being required to obtain a certificate for an AED deployed in a patrol vehicle of the law enforcement agency.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 24.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

**Voting Organizations:**

**Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)**  
**Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA)**  
**State Fire Marshal (OSFM)**  
**Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)**  
**Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)**  
**Metro Fire Chief's Association**  
**Professional Firefighters of Maryland**

***Our Mission Statement***

*The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.*

# **SB 24 - MIEMSS Draft Letter of Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Theodore Delbridge

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 13, 2026

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

Re: SB 24 – State Emergency Medical Services Board – Public Access Automated Defibrillator Program – Revisions

—LETTER OF SUPPORT—

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) respectfully submits this letter in support of Senate Bill 24, departmental legislation that seeks to revise and streamline certain statutory provisions pertaining to the Public Access AED Program, which falls under the agency’s purview pursuant to § 13-517 of the Education Article. It also brings one subsection of the Health—General Article into alignment with the bill as proposed.

More specifically, this legislation: eliminates obsolete provisions (references to “regional council AED committee” and the like); adds one exemption to the list of entities that can operate an AED without a valid certificate (namely, law enforcement agencies that deploy AEDs in patrol vehicles); adds a provision requiring the AED coordinator to promote awareness about the AED, its location, and operation among potential or foreseeable operators in case of emergency; includes grocery stores and restaurants subject to 21-330.3 of the Health—General Article in the definition of “entities” (since they register as such in the State’s AED Registry, thereby harmonizing state law with current practice); and makes other technical and clarifying changes.

Maryland’s Public Access AED Program was established in 1999. Since that time, the General Assembly has required that all public schools, county and municipal swimming pools, grocery stores, restaurants, and certain libraries have a registered AED on premises. Since their inclusion in the Registry pursuant to legislation passed in 2023, grocery stores and restaurants have been exempt from several of the Program requirements imposed on other registered entities. The reprint of this bill makes it clear that they will not assume additional requirements should this legislation be adopted.

MIEMSS respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 24. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

**SB24\_RestaurantAssoc\_Thompson\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melvin Thompson

Position: FWA



## Senate Bill 24

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

February 18, 2026

Position: **FWA**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland has had discussions with Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) staff regarding Senate Bill 24.

We raised concerns about additional requirements that this legislation imposed on restaurants and grocery stores as introduced. These additional requirements would have been beyond the requirements established in § 21 330.3 of the Health General Article (per legislation enacted in 2023).

MIEMSS has submitted amendments to Senate Bill 24 to address our concerns. We have reviewed those amendments, and they are acceptable to us. Therefore, our position on this bill is *Favorable with Amendments*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson".

Melvin R. Thompson  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs and Public Policy