

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bates
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/17, 4/02, 4/14, 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires certain places of public assembly, defined as a facility of 50,000 square feet or more and at least 25 individuals congregated on a normal business day, to have automated external defibrillators, and to ensure that staff persons are trained in the use of the defibrillator and present when the place of public assembly is open to the public.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Exemptions from “place of public assembly”
- Use of automated external defibrillators by non-medical personnel
- Cost of equipment purchase and training of personnel
- Liability and action against the owner of a place of public assembly

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarify definition of “place of public assembly” as a facility that has 50,000 square feet or more of floor space, and at least 25 individuals congregated on a normal business day.

BACKGROUND: In places where the public normally congregate, such as shopping areas, entertainment sites, airports, fitness centers, workplaces, amusement parks, sporting arenas, or where business activities are conducted, the owner of the public place is required to have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) on the premises.

An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat the person through defibrillation, which is the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. AEDs are designed to be used by laypersons who have received AED training.

Senate Bill 556-A requires that an AED be available and in working condition, and that at least one staff member of the public place or business has been trained on the use of the AED and is present during the hours of operation.

Health professionals generally agree that AEDs are so easy to use that most states now include the “good faith” use of an AED by any person under the Good Samaritan laws, meaning that a volunteer responder cannot be held civilly liable for the harm or death of a victim by providing improper or inadequate care, given that the harm or death was not intentional and the responder was acting within the limits of their training and in good faith.