IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2000

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for recommendations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the placement of automatic external defibrillators in Federal buildings in order to improve survival rates of individuals who experience cardiac arrest in such buildings, and to establish protections from civil liability arising from the emergency use of the devices.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cardiac Arrest Sur-
vival Act of 2000”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Over 700 lives are lost every day to sudden
cardiac arrest in the United States alone.

(2) Two out of every three sudden cardiac
deaths occur before a victim can reach a hospital.

(3) More than 95 percent of these cardiac ar-
rest victims will die, many because of lack of readily
available life saving medical equipment.

(4) With current medical technology, up to 30
percent of cardiac arrest victims could be saved if
victims had access to immediate medical response,
including defibrillation and cardiopulmonary resus-
citation.

(5) Once a victim has suffered a cardiac arrest,
every minute that passes before returning the heart
to a normal rhythm decreases the chance of survival
by 10 percent.

(6) Most cardiac arrests are caused by abnor-
mal heart rhythms called ventricular fibrillation.
Ventricular fibrillation occurs when the heart’s electrical system malfunctions, causing a chaotic rhythm that prevents the heart from pumping oxygen to the victim’s brain and body.

(7) Communities that have implemented programs ensuring widespread public access to defibrillators, combined with appropriate training, maintenance, and coordination with local emergency medical systems, have dramatically improved the survival rates from cardiac arrest.

(8) Automated external defibrillator devices have been demonstrated to be safe and effective, even when used by lay people, since the devices are designed not to allow a user to administer a shock until after the device has analyzed a victim’s heart rhythm and determined that an electric shock is required.

(9) Increasing public awareness regarding automated external defibrillator devices and encouraging their use in Federal buildings will greatly facilitate their adoption.

(10) Limiting the liability of Good Samaritans and acquirers of automated external defibrillator devices in emergency situations may encourage the use
of automated external defibrillator devices, and result in saved lives.

SEC. 3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES OF SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REGARDING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

Part B of title II of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 238 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following section:

``RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES REGARDING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS

Sec. 247. (a) GUIDELINES ON PLACEMENT.—The Secretary shall establish guidelines with respect to placing automated external defibrillator devices in Federal buildings. Such guidelines shall take into account the extent to which such devices may be used by lay persons, the typical number of employees and visitors in the buildings, the extent of the need for security measures regarding the buildings, buildings or portions of buildings in which there are special circumstances such as high electrical voltage or extreme heat or cold, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register the recommendations of the Secretary on the appropriate implementation of the
placement of automated external defibrillator devices under subsection (a), including procedures for the fol-
lowing:

“(1) Implementing appropriate training courses in the use of such devices, including the role of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

“(2) Proper maintenance and testing of the de-

ices.

“(3) Ensuring coordination with appropriate li-
censed professionals in the oversight of training of the devices.

“(4) Ensuring coordination with local emer-
gency medical systems regarding the placement and incidents of use of the devices.

“(c) CONSULTATIONS; CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) consult with appropriate public and private entities;

“(2) consider the recommendations of national and local public-health organizations for improving the survival rates of individuals who experience cardiac arrest in nonhospital settings by minimizing the time elapsing between the onset of cardiac arrest
and the initial medical response, including
defibrillation as necessary; and

“(3) consult with and counsel other Federal
agencies where such devices are to be used.

“(d) DATE CERTAIN FOR ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall
comply with this section not later than 180 days after the
date of the enactment of the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act
of 2000.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) The term ‘automated external defibrillator
device’ has the meaning given such term in section
248.

“(2) The term ‘Federal building’ includes a
building or portion of a building leased or rented by
a Federal agency, and includes buildings on military
installations of the United States.”.

SEC. 4. GOOD SAMARITAN PROTECTIONS REGARDING
EMERGENCY USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATORS.

Part B of title II of the Public Health Service Act,
as amended by section 3 of this Act, is amended by adding
at the end the following section:
“LIABILITY REGARDING EMERGENCY USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

“Sec. 248. (a) Good Samaritan Protections Regarding AEDs.—Except as provided in subsection (b), any person who uses or attempts to use an automated external defibrillator device on a victim of a perceived medical emergency is immune from civil liability for any harm resulting from the use or attempted use of such device; and in addition, any person who acquired the device is immune from such liability, if the harm was not due to the failure of such acquirer of the device—

“(1) to notify local emergency response personnel or other appropriate entities of the most recent placement of the device within a reasonable period of time after the device was placed;

“(2) to properly maintain and test the device; or

“(3) to provide appropriate training in the use of the device to an employee or agent of the acquirer when the employee or agent was the person who used the device on the victim, except that such requirement of training does not apply if—

“(A) the employee or agent was not an employee or agent who would have been reasonably expected to use the device; or
“(B) the period of time elapsing between
the engagement of the person as an employee or
agent and the occurrence of the harm (or be-
tween the acquisition of the device and the oc-
currence of the harm, in any case in which the
device was acquired after such engagement of
the person) was not a reasonably sufficient pe-
riod in which to provide the training.

“(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF IMMUNITY.—Immunity
under subsection (a) does not apply to a person if—

“(1) the harm involved was caused by willful or
criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless mis-
conduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the
rights or safety of the victim who was harmed; or

“(2) the person is a licensed or certified health
professional who used the automated external
defibrillator device while acting within the scope of
the license or certification of the professional and
within the scope of the employment or agency of the
professional; or

“(3) the person is a hospital, clinic, or other en-
tity whose purpose is providing health care directly
to patients, and the harm was caused by an em-
ployee or agent of the entity who used the device
while acting within the scope of the employment or agency of the employee or agent; or

“(4) the person is an acquirer of the device who leased the device to a health care entity (or who otherwise provided the device to such entity for compensation without selling the device to the entity), and the harm was caused by an employee or agent of the entity who used the device while acting within the scope of the employment or agency of the employee or agent.

“(c) Rules of Construction.—

“(1) In General.—The following applies with respect to this section:

“(A) This section does not establish any cause of action, or require that an automated external defibrillator device be placed at any building or other location.

“(B) With respect to a class of persons for which this section provides immunity from civil liability, this section supersedes the law of a State only to the extent that the State has no statute or regulations that provide persons in such class with immunity for civil liability arising from the use by such persons of automated external defibrillator devices in emergency situ-
ations (within the meaning of the State law or regulation involved).

“(C) This section does not waive any protection from liability for Federal officers or employees under—

“(i) section 224; or

“(ii) sections 1346(b), 2672, and 2679 of title 28, United States Code, or under alternative benefits provided by the United States where the availability of such benefits precludes a remedy under section 1346(b) of title 28.

“(2) CIVIL ACTIONS UNDER FEDERAL LAW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicability of subsections (a) and (b) includes applicability to any action for civil liability described in subsection (a) that arises under Federal law.

“(B) FEDERAL AREAS ADOPTING STATE LAW.—If a geographic area is under Federal jurisdiction and is located within a State but out of the jurisdiction of the State, and if, pursuant to Federal law, the law of the State applies in such area regarding matters for which there is no applicable Federal law, then an action for civil liability described in subsection (a)
that in such area arises under the law of the
State is subject to subsections (a) through (e)
in lieu of any related State law that would
apply in such area in the absence of this sub-
paragraph.

“(d) FEDERAL JURISDICTION.—In any civil action
arising under State law, the courts of the State involved
have jurisdiction to apply the provisions of this section ex-
clusive of the jurisdiction of the courts of the United
States.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—

“(1) PERCEIVED MEDICAL EMERGENCY.—For
purposes of this section, the term ‘perceived medical
emergency’ means circumstances in which the behav-
ior of an individual leads a reasonable person to be-
lieve that the individual is experiencing a life-threat-
ening medical condition that requires an immediate
medical response regarding the heart or other
cardiopulmonary functioning of the individual.

“(2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of
this section:

“(A) The term ‘automated external
defibrillator device’ means a defibrillator device
that—
“(i) is commercially distributed in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

“(ii) is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation, and is capable of determining without intervention by the user of the device whether defibrillation should be performed;

“(iii) upon determining that defibrillation should be performed, is able to deliver an electrical shock to an individual; and

“(iv) in the case of a defibrillator device that may be operated in either an automated or a manual mode, is set to operate in the automated mode.

“(B)(i) The term ‘harm’ includes physical, nonphysical, economic, and noneconomic losses.

“(ii) The term ‘economic loss’ means any pecuniary loss resulting from harm (including the loss of earnings or other benefits related to employment, medical expense loss, replacement services loss, loss due to death, burial costs, and loss of business or employment opportunities)
to the extent recovery for such loss is allowed
under applicable State law.

“(iii) The term ‘noneconomic losses’ means
losses for physical and emotional pain, suf-
fering, inconvenience, physical impairment,
mental anguish, disfigurement, loss of enjoy-
ment of life, loss of society and companionship,
loss of consortium (other than loss of domestic
service), hedonic damages, injury to reputation
and all other nonpecuniary losses of any kind or
nature.”.


Attest: JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.
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