
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2677 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY LEWIS, WEBER, BEBKO-JONES, BROWNE, CAPPELLI,
DALLY, DeWEESE, J. EVANS, GEIST, GINGRICH, GOOD, GRUCELA,
HENNESSEY, LEACH, LYNCH, MILLARD, PETRI, PHILLIPS, PICKETT,
SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, T. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR,
THOMAS, TIGUE, WATERS, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 8, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 8, 2004

AN ACT

1 Requiring automatic external defibrillators in emergency service
2 vehicles; and providing civil immunity under certain
3 circumstances.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency
8 Service Vehicle Automatic External Defibrillator Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Automatic external defibrillator." A portable device that
14 uses electric shock to restore a stable heart rhythm to an
15 individual in cardiac arrest.

16 "Emergency service entity." A fire department or an entity

1 that provides ambulance service, advanced life support service
2 or other emergency service to the public.

3 Section 3. Automatic external defibrillators required.

4 (a) General rule.--Within 90 days of the effective date of
5 this act, an emergency service entity shall acquire and maintain
6 an automatic external defibrillator in each vehicle used by the
7 emergency service entity.

8 (b) Duties.--The emergency service entity shall:

9 (1) In accordance with subsection (c), provide training
10 to persons who are assigned to each vehicle in which the
11 automatic external defibrillator will be primarily stored.

12 (2) Secure the automatic external defibrillator in a
13 safe and readily accessible location within the vehicle and
14 properly maintain and test the automatic external
15 defibrillator according to the manufacturer's operational
16 guidelines.

17 (3) Submit a valid prescription for the automatic
18 external defibrillator from a licensed medical practitioner
19 in this Commonwealth.

20 (c) Training.--The personnel of an emergency service entity
21 who are expected to use the automatic external defibrillators
22 required by this act shall complete training in cardiopulmonary
23 resuscitation and in the use of an automatic external
24 defibrillator provided by the American Heart Association or the
25 American Red Cross or through an equivalent course of
26 instruction approved by the department.

27 Section 4. Civil immunity.

28 The provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. § 8331.2 (relating to good
29 Samaritan civil immunity for use of automated external
30 defibrillator) shall apply to personnel of an emergency service

- 1 entity that renders care with an automatic external
- 2 defibrillator.
- 3 Section 5. Effective date.
- 4 This act shall take effect in 60 days.