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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2482 Session of  
2000

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INTRODUCED BY BEBKO-JONES, CAPPABIANCA, BELARDI, WILLIAMS,  
DeWEESE, BARD, BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, M. COHEN, COLAFELLA,  
COSTA, FRANKEL, GEORGE, JOSEPHS, HENNESSEY, SANTONI, HARHAI,  
HALUSKA, McCALL, MELIO, PIPPY, RAMOS, ROBERTS, LAUGHLIN,  
LEDERER, LUCYK, ROONEY, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, YOUNGBLOOD,  
SEYFERT, SHANER, WOJNAROSKI, WASHINGTON, WALKO, TRICH,  
TRELLO, TRAVAGLIO, TIGUE, J. TAYLOR, E. Z. TAYLOR, TANGRETTI  
AND SOLOBAY, APRIL 19, 2000

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
APRIL 19, 2000

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AN ACT

1 Authorizing the Department of Health to award grants for the  
2 purchase of automated external defibrillators; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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 Automated  
8 External Defibrillator Grant Act.

9 Section 2. Purpose.

10 The purpose of this act is to promote greater availability  
11 and use of automated external defibrillators in this  
12 Commonwealth by encouraging State veterans' homes, senior  
13 citizen centers and certain adult day-care centers, child-care  
14 centers, group homes and family child-care homes to purchase the  
15 devices.

1 Section 3. Definitions.

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

5 "Automated external defibrillator" or "AED." A portable  
6 device that uses electric shock to restore a stable heart rhythm  
7 to an individual in cardiac arrest.

8 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

9 "Entity." Any of the following:

10 (1) State veterans home.

11 (2) Senior citizens center.

12 (3) Adult day-care center licensed by the Department of  
13 Aging.

14 (4) Child-care center, group home and family child-care  
15 home licensed by the Department of Public Welfare.

16 Section 4. AED grants.

17 (a) Authorization.--The department, through the advisory  
18 board established under section 5, shall award grants to  
19 entities that purchase an AED for their own use and that submit  
20 an application in such form as deemed acceptable by the  
21 department for a grant under this act.

22 (b) Grant amount.--The amount of each grant shall not exceed  
23 50% of the purchase price for an AED, and only one grant shall  
24 be awarded per entity.

25 Section 5. Agreement between department and grant recipients.

26 An entity that is a grant recipient shall enter into an  
27 agreement with the department. The agreement shall include, but  
28 not be limited to, the following terms and conditions:

29 (1) Expected AED users shall be trained in CPR through a  
30 course of instruction provided by the American Red Cross or

1 the American Heart Association or through an equivalent  
2 course of instruction approved by the department in  
3 consultation with a technical committee of the Pennsylvania  
4 Emergency Health Services Council.

5 (2) Expected AED users shall complete training in the  
6 use of an AED through a course of instruction provided by the  
7 American Red Cross or the American Heart Association or  
8 through an equivalent course of instruction approved by the  
9 department in consultation with a technical committee of the  
10 Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council.

11 (3) Expected AED users shall be trained to utilize  
12 available means to immediately contact and activate the  
13 emergency medical services system.

14 (4) The entity shall maintain and test the AED according  
15 to the manufacturer's operational guidelines.

16 (5) The entity shall notify emergency medical services  
17 personnel of the presence of an AED and assure that any  
18 appropriate data or information is made available to  
19 emergency medical services personnel or other health care  
20 providers as requested.

21 Section 6. Advisory board.

22 The department shall establish an advisory board to review  
23 and approve grant applications under this act. The advisory  
24 board shall be comprised of the following:

25 (1) Two officials from the Department of Health,  
26 appointed by the Secretary of Health.

27 (2) Two officials from the American Heart Association,  
28 appointed by the president of that association.

29 (3) A citizen who is not affiliated with the Department  
30 of Health or the American Heart Association and who has

1 knowledge of AEDs, appointed by the Secretary of Health upon  
2 recommendation of the president of the American Heart  
3 Association.

4 (4) Two members of the Public Health and Welfare  
5 Committee of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by  
6 the chairman of that committee and one of whom shall be  
7 appointed by the minority chairman of that committee.

8 (5) Two members of the Health and Human Services  
9 Committee of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall  
10 be appointed by the chairman of that committee and one of  
11 whom shall be appointed by the minority chairman of that  
12 committee.

13 Section 7. Good Samaritan civil immunity.

14 An expected AED user who uses an AED purchased from a grant  
15 awarded under this act shall be entitled to civil immunity as  
16 provided in 42 Pa.C.S. § 8331.2 (relating to Good Samaritan  
17 civil immunity for use of automated external defibrillator).

18 Section 8. Appropriation.

19 The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much thereof as may be  
20 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Health  
21 for the purpose of making grants in accordance with this act.

22 Section 9. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 60 days.