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HOUSE BILL 1999

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State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Campbell, Cody, Skinner and Simpson

Read first time 02/12/2001. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to automated external defibrillators; and creating  
2 new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that heart disease is  
5 the leading cause of death in the United States, and that the American  
6 Heart Association estimates that two hundred twenty thousand Americans  
7 die from sudden cardiac arrest each year. Further, the legislature  
8 finds that a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival drops ten  
9 percent for every minute that passes before his or her heart is  
10 returned to normal rhythm, that the American Heart Association  
11 recommends delivery of electric shock by a defibrillator within five  
12 minutes of an out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest, that lifesaving  
13 technology, the automated external defibrillator, has been developed to  
14 allow trained lay rescuers to safely and effectively respond to cardiac  
15 arrest by shocking the heart into normal rhythm, and that the state of  
16 Washington recognized the importance of expanding the availability of  
17 such devices by extending liability protections to those who purchase  
18 and use such devices. Accordingly, the legislature determines that

1 Washington's citizens would be greatly benefited by having access to  
2 these devices in public buildings.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) In order to assist in improving the  
4 survival rate of individuals who experience sudden cardiac arrest in  
5 buildings operated by state and local governments, the department of  
6 health shall consult with the American Heart Association, the  
7 Washington state association of counties, the association of Washington  
8 cities, and other interested parties, in order to gather, analyze, and  
9 present findings on the best means to place automated external  
10 defibrillators in state and local government buildings. The issues to  
11 be addressed include, but are not limited to, the following:

12 (a) Selection of public buildings where automated external  
13 defibrillators should be placed, with special consideration to  
14 government buildings accessible to the public;

15 (b) Details of automated external defibrillator purchase,  
16 placement, oversight, and maintenance;

17 (c) Integration of automated external defibrillators with existing  
18 emergency medical services; and

19 (d) Initial and ongoing training required in automated external  
20 defibrillator use and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

21 (2) The department of health shall submit its findings in a report  
22 required by subsection (1) of this section, along with recommendations,  
23 by December 1, 2001, to the appropriate legislative committees.

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