

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 812
Ways and Means

(Delegate Lee, *et al.*)

Education - Middle Schools - Automated External Defibrillators

This bill requires all middle schools to meet the requirements of the current high school automated external defibrillator (AED) programs developed by each local board of education. Therefore, each middle school is required to have an AED on-site and an individual trained in the operation and use of an AED present at all middle school-sponsored athletic events.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can update the current AED regulations using existing resources. The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) can maintain the AED certificate database using existing resources.

Local Effect: Local school systems without AEDs in each middle school will need to purchase one at a cost of \$1,500 to \$3,000 per AED. Given the potential number of local school systems without AEDs in middle schools, local school system costs increase by a total of at least \$96,000 and up to \$378,000 to purchase AEDs. Local school systems will also need to provide AED training for at least one individual in each middle school. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Each local board of education must develop and implement a High School AED Program, with at least one AED on-site in each public high school and one individual trained in operation and AED use present at each school-sponsored athletic event. Likewise, at least one trained individual has to be on-site at each high school during the regular school day. An AED coordinator must also be designated, who is trained in CPR and AED operation.

There is a public access AED program to coordinate an effective statewide public access AED program. The program is administered by MIEMSS. Each facility that desires to make AEDs available must possess a valid certificate from MIEMSS, unless the facility is a jurisdictional emergency medical services operational program, a licensed commercial ambulance services, a health care facility, or a place of business for health care practitioners or physicians and the faculty is authorized to use an AED in accordance with its license.

The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends AED placement in all emergency medical services first-response vehicles and targeted public areas such as sports arenas, gated communities, office complexes, doctor's offices, and shopping malls. If an AED is placed in a business or facility, AHA recommends that (1) a local emergency medical services office be notified; (2) a licensed physician or medical authority provide medical oversight; and (3) the individuals responsible for using the AED be properly trained.

Most AEDs are about the size of a laptop computer. They analyze a cardiac arrest victim's cardiac rhythm; charge to an appropriate energy level; and deliver an electric charge, as directed by the operator, through adhesive pads placed on the victim's chest. According to MIEMSS, a generic AED is available at a cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500. The more rugged "tough book" AED, typically in the back of an ambulance, costs about \$3,000.

Local Expenditures: As shown in **Exhibit 1**, according to a survey conducted by MSDE 14 local school systems have AEDs in middle schools; 3 local school systems do not have AEDs in middle schools; and in 7 local school systems, the status of AEDs in middle schools is unknown.

Exhibit 1
AEDs in Middle Schools by School System

<u>Have AEDs</u>	<u># of Middle Schools</u>	<u>No AEDs</u>	<u># of Middle Schools</u>	<u>Unknown AEDs</u>	<u># of Middle Schools</u>
Allegany	4	Garrett	2	Baltimore City	5
Anne Arundel	19	Montgomery	38	Carroll	9
Baltimore	27	Prince George's	24	Cecil	6
Calvert	6			Charles	8
Caroline	2			Dorchester	2
Harford	9			Frederick	13
Kent	1			Howard	19
Queen Anne's	4				
St. Mary's	4				
Somerset	1				
Talbot	1				
Washington	7				
Wicomico	3				
Worcester	1				
Total With AEDs	89	Total Without	64	Total Unknown	62

Note: The number of middle schools in each local school system does not include combined middle/high schools.

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Local school systems without AEDs in each middle school will need to purchase one at a cost of \$1,500 to \$3,000 per AED. Given the potential number of local school systems without AEDs in middle schools, local school system costs increase by a total of at least \$96,000 and up to \$378,000 to purchase AEDs. The low end estimate (\$96,000) was calculated by assuming that there are 64 middle schools without AEDs and that the AED unit costs \$1,500. The high end estimate (\$378,000) was calculated by assuming that there are 126 middle schools without AEDs and that AED units cost \$3,000.

Local school systems will also need to provide AED training for at least one individual in each middle school. The costs for this training are unknown.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2014
ncs/rhh

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