

Automated External Defibrillators - P.A. 93-0910

Governor Rod Blagojevich signed HB 4232 (Burke, D-Chicago) into law, requiring schools to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) in all indoor physical fitness facilities. The law, now Public Act 93-0910, becomes effective January 1, 2005.

For direct access to the bill go to:

<http://www.legis.state.il.us/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=3&GA=93&DocTypeId=HB&DocNum=4232&GAID=3&LegID=8430&SpecSess=&Session=>

The bill requires school districts to have a policy on medical emergencies, to have an (AED) in each indoor physical fitness facility, and to have a trained AED user in each physical fitness facility during school-sponsored physical fitness activities. An indoor physical fitness facility would include: a swimming pool; stadium; athletic field; track and field facility; tennis court; basketball court; or volleyball court.

A school district owning or operating four or fewer indoor physical fitness facilities must have at least one such facility in compliance with this Act on or before July 1, 2006; its second facility in compliance by July 1, 2007; its third facility in compliance by July 1, 2008; and its fourth facility in compliance by July 1, 2009. A school district owning or operating more than four indoor physical fitness facilities must have 25% of those facilities in compliance by July 1, 2006, 50% in compliance by July 1, 2007, 75% in compliance by July 1, 2008 and 100% in compliance by July 1, 2009.

The bill authorizes the Department of Public Health to inspect facilities to investigate complaints and ensure compliance with the Act and establishes civil monetary penalties for violations of the Act (\$1,500 to \$2,000). It provides that a right of action does not exist in connection with the use or non-use of an AED at a facility provided specified conditions are met, except for willful or wanton misconduct.

Options for Purchasing an AED

There is no State funding included in the legislation to assist schools in purchasing an AED. This was the Alliance's main reason for opposing the legislation. In some communities, school districts have worked with local fire departments, emergency response squads, or police departments to find assistance with AED purchases and training. Earlier this year, the Illinois Rural Health Association had accepted grant proposals for the purchase of an AED.

Though the original deadline has passed to apply for the grants, it still may be prudent to contact this organization to see if any assistance is available. Contact can be made to 1-800-500-1560 or info@ilruralhealth.org

There is also an organization called LifeSignsAmerica that claims to provide AEDs, related supplies, and training for free if the school places an "Eyecatcher" sign in one of its buildings. For more details, contact can be made by phone at (410) 647-0660, by e-mail at tledww@acninc.net, or on the web at www.LifeSignsAmerica.com