

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6562

As of February 3, 2012

Title: An act relating to requiring the establishment of an automated external defibrillator program for each high school in the state.

Brief Description: Requiring the establishment of an automated external defibrillator program for each high school in the state.

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, Eide and Shin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/01/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Stephanie Christensen (786-7405)

Background: Ventricular fibrillation is a potentially fatal form of sudden cardiac arrest in which the heart becomes unable to effectively pump blood and may stop abruptly. Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are portable medical devices that can be used on persons who develop this type of cardiac arrest by providing an electric shock that can help restore normal heart rhythm. According to the American Heart Association, effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including defibrillation, significantly increases a victim's chance of survival if administered immediately after cardiac arrest.

AEDs are commonly used by first responders and may also be placed in public areas, including stadiums, office buildings, ferries, airplanes, and schools. Washington law requires that any person or entity who acquires an AED:

- receive training in its use and in the administration of CPR;
- maintain and test the AED according to manufacturer guidelines; and
- notify local emergency medical services of the location of the AED.

Washington law also immunizes users of AEDs in an emergency setting from civil liability unless their conduct rises to the level of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

Summary of Bill: The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in consultation with school districts, must develop and implement an AED program for each high school in the

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state. The program will ensure that an AED is provided on-site and a trained individual is present at all school-sponsored athletic events.

SPI must consult with the department of Health and adopt rules that: (1) establish guidelines for inspection and maintenance of the AEDs; and (2) assist districts in carrying out the AED program, including procedures to seek grants and donations for the purchase of AEDs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 31, 2012.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Students in Washington have been saved by AEDs. Immediate use of an AED can double or triple chances of survival. Would like an amendment that includes a more comprehensive emergency response plan. Education is key to this entire program. Success of this program is dependent on the availability of AEDs and community education. Programs have been implemented in Seattle, Federal Way, and Auburn, and saves have been made in all three districts.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator McAuliffe, prime sponsor; Lucy Culp, American Heart Assn.; Suzi Crickmore, American Heart Assn., Northwest AED; Kayla Burt, Hope Heart Institute.