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**HOUSE BILL 1968**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Bateman, Ryu, Leavitt, Duerr, Morgan, Reed, Ormsby, Sandlin, Reeves, and Davis

Prefiled 12/18/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring semiautomatic external  
2 defibrillators at fitness centers; adding a new section to chapter  
3 70.54 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The owner of a fitness center shall acquire and maintain at  
8 least one semiautomatic external defibrillator on premises.

9 (2) The fitness center must comply with the requirements of RCW  
10 70.54.310, including instruction of personnel on the use of the  
11 defibrillator, maintenance of the defibrillator, and notification of  
12 the local emergency medical services organization about the location  
13 of the defibrillator.

14 (3) An employee of a fitness center who has completed the  
15 instruction required under RCW 70.54.310 may render emergency care or  
16 treatment using a semiautomatic external defibrillator on the fitness  
17 center premises.

18 (4) A person who uses a semiautomatic external defibrillator at  
19 the scene of an emergency is immune from civil liability pursuant to  
20 RCW 70.54.310.

1           (5) (a) "Fitness center" means any premises used for recreation,  
2 instruction, training, physical exercise, body building, weight loss,  
3 figure development, martial arts, or other similar activity, that  
4 offers access on a membership basis.

5           (b) "Fitness center" does not include: (i) Public common schools,  
6 private schools approved under RCW 28A.195.010, and public or private  
7 institutions of higher education; and (ii) private facilities  
8 operated out of a home that do not offer memberships.

9           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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