

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 5/12/2005

LRB Number	05-2600/1	Introduction Number	SB-186	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Expand civil immunities for operators of automatic defibrillators					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

A semi-automatic defibrillator is a heart monitor and defibrillator that is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia, determining whether defibrillation should be performed, charging, and, at the operator's command, delivering an electrical impulse to the heart. An automatic defibrillator is similar to a semi-automatic defibrillator, except that it either automatically delivers an electrical impulse to an individual's heart or charges and delivers the electrical impulse at the operator's command.

Under current law, individuals who are not emergency medical technicians or first responders-defibrillation, but who have received training in a course approved by the Department, may use semiautomatic defibrillators in rendering emergency care or treatment of others who appear to be in cardiac arrest. An individual who provides a semi-automatic defibrillator for this use must provide written notice and certain information to the nearest emergency services program and ensure that the defibrillator is maintained and tested according to specific guidelines. If these requirements are met, the users, owners, and providers of semi-automatic defibrillators are immune from civil liability for acts or omissions in rendering emergency care in good faith.

This bill provides to users, owners, and providers of automatic defibrillators the same immunity from civil liability for acts or omissions in rendering emergency care in good faith that exists for users, owners, and providers of semiautomatic defibrillators, providing the same requirements are met.

There will be no fiscal effect to the Department or local units of government from this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications