

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2528

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2000

Referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## AN ACT

To provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Rural Access to Emer-  
5       gency Devices Act” or the “Rural AED Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Heart disease is the leading cause of death  
4 in the United States.

5 (2) The American Heart Association estimates  
6 that 250,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac ar-  
7 rest each year.

8 (3) A cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival  
9 drops 10 percent for every minute that passes before  
10 his or her heart is returned to normal rhythm.

11 (4) Because most cardiac arrest victims are ini-  
12 tially in ventricular fibrillation, and the only treat-  
13 ment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation,  
14 prompt access to defibrillation to return the heart to  
15 normal rhythm is essential.

16 (5) Lifesaving technology, the automated exter-  
17 nal defibrillator, has been developed to allow trained  
18 lay rescuers to respond to cardiac arrest by using  
19 this simple device to shock the heart into normal  
20 rhythm.

21 (6) Those people who are likely to be first on  
22 the scene of a cardiac arrest situation in many com-  
23 munities, particularly smaller and rural commu-  
24 nities, lack sufficient numbers of automated external  
25 defibrillators to respond to cardiac arrest in a timely  
26 manner.

1           (7) The American Heart Association estimates  
2           that more than 50,000 deaths could be prevented  
3           each year if defibrillators were more widely available  
4           to designated responders.

5           (8) Legislation should be enacted to encourage  
6           greater public access to automated external  
7           defibrillators in communities across the United  
8           States.

9   **SEC. 3. GRANTS.**

10          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
11          Human Services, acting through the Rural Health Out-  
12          reach Office of the Health Resources and Services Admin-  
13          istration, shall award grants to community partnerships  
14          that meet the requirements of subsection (b) to enable  
15          such partnerships to purchase equipment and provide  
16          training as provided for in subsection (c).

17          (b) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.—A community  
18          partnership meets the requirements of this subsection if  
19          such partnership—

20                (1) is composed of local emergency response en-  
21                tities such as community training facilities, local  
22                emergency responders, fire and rescue departments,  
23                police, community hospitals, and local non-profit en-  
24                tities and for-profit entities concerned about cardiac  
25                arrest survival rates;

1           (2) evaluates the local community emergency  
2       response times to assess whether they meet the  
3       standards established by national public health orga-  
4       nizations such as the American Heart Association  
5       and the American Red Cross; and

6           (3) submits to the Secretary of Health and  
7       Human Services an application at such time, in such  
8       manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
9       retary may require.

10       (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts provided under a  
11   grant under this section shall be used—

12           (1) to purchase automatic external defibrillators  
13       that have been approved, or cleared for marketing,  
14       by the Food and Drug Administration; and

15           (2) to provide defibrillator and basic life sup-  
16       port training in automated external defibrillator  
17       usage through the American Heart Association, the  
18       American Red Cross, or other nationally recognized  
19       training courses.

20       (d) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date  
21   of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and  
22   Human Services shall prepare and submit to the appro-  
23   priate committees of Congress a report containing data  
24   relating to whether the increased availability of  
25   defibrillators has affected survival rates in the commu-

1 nities in which grantees under this section operated. The  
2 procedures under which the Secretary obtains data and  
3 prepares the report under this subsection shall not impose  
4 an undue burden on program participants under this sec-  
5 tion.

6 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
7 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for fiscal years  
8 2001 through 2003 to carry out this section.

Passed the Senate October 10 (legislative day, Sep-  
tember 22), 2000.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,  
*Secretary.*