

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6032



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**Introduced by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez**

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**AN ACT  
REQUIRING THE PLACEMENT OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN PUBLIC SPACES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Deaths caused by cardiovascular problems can be reduced through the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillators (AED).

Defibrillators reset the electrical activity of the heart in the hope that the natural pacemaker cells can then regain control of the rhythm. Together with cardiopulmonary resuscitation, they can help reduce deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases. Unfortunately, they are only available in medical facilities. Cardiac arrests can occur anywhere, and the availability of defibrillators in public places removes the need to bring a patient to a medical facility in order to be resuscitated.

This bill will require the installment and maintenance of public access defibrillator (PAD) devices, which shall be available in government buildings and private establishments open to the public. The bill also provides training for personnel who are tasked to operate and maintain such devices.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Defibrillators in Public Places Act of 2019.”

Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. *Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device* – refers to an electronic device used to counteract fibrillation of the heart muscle and restore normal heartbeat by applying a brief electric shock;
- b. *Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) device* – refers to an AED device which is placed in government buildings, private places, and other private places as defined in this Section;
- c. *Government building* – refers to a building or portion of a building owned, leased, or otherwise used by the national government of the Republic of the Philippines or local government units;



- d. *Private places* – refer to privately-owned establishments, including but are not limited to resorts, hotels, casinos, malls, condominiums, and sports venues; and
- e. *Other private places* – refer to places with a high volume of people, including but are not limited to schools, public or wet markets, and churches or places of worship.

Sec. 3. *Guidelines on Placement.* – The following guidelines in the placement of AEDs and PADs shall be followed:

- a. Each government building shall procure and maintain an AED device on-site in each establishment open to the public. The AED device shall be maintained in an accessible location within the building and shall be made available;
- b. The PAD shall come with visible signage and maintained in an accessible location within the government building, private places, or other private places.

The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) shall establish guidelines with respect to placing AED devices in government buildings. Such guidelines shall take into account the extent to which such devices may be used by lay persons, the typical number of employees and visitors in the buildings, the extent of the need for security measures regarding the buildings, buildings or portions of buildings in which there are special circumstances such as high electrical voltage or extreme heat or cold, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 4. *Training.* – The DOH shall establish a program for appropriate training courses in the use and proper maintenance of AED devices, including for

cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The DOH shall ensure coordination with appropriate licensed professionals in the oversight of training of the devices. All personnel tasked to operate and maintain AED devices shall undergo such trainings.

*Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH shall issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

*Sec. 6. Appropriation.* – The amounts necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated; *Provided*, that the corresponding amount needed to implement this Act in subsequent years shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the Department of Health.

*Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or otherwise unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

*Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

*Sec. 9. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*