

Nicole Iverson

From: Paul Weirtz <Paul.Weirtz@heart.org>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Beth Ethier; Alex Will
Cc: Nicole Iverson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SF 1395
Attachments: SF 1395.pdf

Ms. Ethier:
Mr. Will

Attached is the AHA's letter of support for Senate File 1395 (roadside signage for automatic external defibrillators) that will be heard by the Senate Transportation Committee on Monday.

Paul



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State Government Relations Director
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February 14, 2020

Senator Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dibble & Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), I would like to express the AHA's support for S.F. 1395, legislation that authorizes roadside signage for automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for qualifying locations.

Over the years, the AHA has given priority to cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for the US population and the placement and use of AEDs in public places to ensure optimal response when a person experiences sudden cardiac arrest. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a global public health issue with more than 3.8 million victims annually and only 8% to 12% surviving to hospital discharge. Victims require immediate basic life support to optimize the probability of survival.

Early defibrillation of shockable rhythms is associated with improved survival, but one of the greatest challenges in OHCA management has been providing victims with access to immediate defibrillation. Even in optimized emergency medical systems, the median response time for OHCA can be more than 6 minutes. Individuals with little to no training can operate AEDs to support chest compressions and treat shockable cardiac arrest rhythms.

The American Heart Association supports placement of AEDs in locations with significant public footprint including in coordination with cardiac emergency response planning. Continued evolution of public access defibrillation implementation to support high-quality chest compressions and improve early defibrillation will enhance cardiac safety in our communities and increase survival for victims of OHCA. Senate File 1395 is a valuable tool in providing additional information to the public for AED accessibility.

I respectfully ask for the committee's support of Senate File 1395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul L. Weirtz".

Paul L. Weirtz
State Government Relations Director
American Heart Association

Bill Title: (SF 1395/HF --) AEDs Allowed on State Road Signs

Senate Authors: Howe

House Authors: --

Researcher: Dave Fraser

Background: Currently many local governments are allowing people to put Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) signs on their local signage. This bill would mandate it on local, state and federal signage when requested and when it meets the proper standards.

Additionally, it requires MnDOT to put AED signage in their manual on uniform traffic control devices so all signage in MN will look the same.

American Heart Association Testimony In Support

Description of AED: Mayo AED. Red Cross AED.

Example of sign:



MnDOT had quite a few concerns about the original draft, this bill tried to solve some of them but there concerns were essentially that 911 is the best resource for help rather than the signage; there are over 4,700 signs which will lead to sign clutter that will confuse drivers; MnDOT doesn't sign for devices but rather places, concerns people won't be able to find the device; concerns that signs last 15 years while AED service life may be different; who is making sure AED is serviced and maintained; if one isn't working and a sign is up which someone goes to then that may cause a problem; they say that 911 and online resources are better.

Again, the bill was created with these concerns in mind so hopefully most if not all of these concerns are gone.

This bill does require locals to do this which takes away some local control and mandates the feds to do this which we can't. But many of the locals are already doing this and the feds will likely just ignore us putting this into law.

Status: Referred to the Transportation Finance and Policy Committee.