



House Bill 47

Automated External Defibrillator Requirements for Townships

Does your township own, maintain, and operate recreational facilities such as parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, or indoor recreation centers? Does your township have a population of 5,000 or more?

If you answered yes to both questions, you will soon be required to place an automated external defibrillator (AED) in each of your “sports and recreation locations.” HB 47, which passed the General Assembly in June, altered Ohio Revised Code §755.13 mandating schools and local governments include these life-saving devices. **This change takes effect October 24, 2024.**

New Requirements

1. Placement of AEDs:

A township with a population of 5,000 **must** place at least one AED in a centralized area at each recreational location under its control. **Townships may wish to collaborate with their local Fire/EMS and other community experts and partners to evaluate the best AED locations.**

2. Emergency Plan:

A township with a population of 5,000 **must** adopt an emergency plan specifically for the use of AEDs. This plan must be practiced at least once per quarter to ensure preparedness.

3. Staff Training:

A township with a population of 5,000 **must** train a sufficient number of staff persons of each sports and recreation location in the use of AEDs.

Definitions

“Sports and recreation location” means indoor recreation centers and facilities, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and playing fields that are designated, operated, and maintained for those uses as authorized by R.C. §§755.12-755.18.

“Automated external defibrillator” means mean the process of applying a specialized defibrillator to a person in cardiac arrest, allowing the defibrillator to interpret the cardiac rhythm, and, if appropriate, delivering an electrical shock to the heart to allow it to resume effective electrical activity.

Model Emergency Action Plan & Training

To assist with these new requirements, HB 47 requires the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs. Townships can utilize this model plan, which must be practiced quarterly to ensure compliance. The model emergency plan and more information can be found at odh.ohio.gov.

Training for AED use can be obtained from several organizations, including:

- » Ohio Department of Public Safety (publicsafety.ohio.gov/home)
- » American Red Cross (redcross.org/take-a-class/aed/aed-training)
- » American Heart Association (cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/heart saver/heart saver-cpr-aed-training)

These organizations offer comprehensive training courses that will equip your staff with the necessary skills to operate AEDs effectively.

Procuring AEDs

There are several reputable companies that supply these life-saving devices, such as Phillips, Zoll, Defibtech, and Cardiac Science. Each of these companies provides a range of AED models suitable for various recreational settings, ensuring that your township can find devices that meet its specific needs. *(Please note that the OTA does not endorse any AED providers.)*

To help defray the costs of purchasing AEDs for your township, the OTARMA MORE grant may be used. For other possible grants or assistance, visit:

- » hopeysheart.org/aed-grant-program
- » grants.firehousesubs.com
- » fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters

For any questions, contact OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, Kyle A. Brooks, at brooks@ohiotownships.org or 614-863-0045.