



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Expanded access to defibrillators wins Senate support *SB 556 will require defibrillators to be more readily available in public places*

SALEM—The Senate passed legislation this morning that requires certain places of public assembly to have automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, on site. SB 556 would also require that an employee certified to use the machine be present when the place of assembly is open to the public.

“These machines save lives,” said Senator Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), chief sponsor of the bill. “AEDs are the fire extinguishers of the 21st century – the sooner more are available in public places, the more lives we can save.”

AEDs are portable electronic devices that use the application of electronic therapy to stop heart arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish effective rhythm. The machines are designed to be used by laypersons who have received AED training, much like the CPR training many people receive.

“More and more Oregonians are getting trained in AED use,” explained Senator Alan Bates (D-Ashland), a practicing physician. “The next step to saving lives is to make sure these machines are available in all of our shopping centers, office buildings, sporting arenas and other public places.”

During the 2005 session, Hass and Bates worked on legislation expanding the presence of AEDs in health clubs and schools. SB 556 builds on this work by requiring AEDs in public buildings larger than 50,000 square feet. Schools and places of worship are exempt from the requirement.

The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

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