



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 2043**



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Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Defibrillators are devices that restore a normal heartbeat by sending an electric pulse or shock to the heart. They are used to prevent or correct an arrhythmia, a heartbeat that is uneven or that is too slow or too fast. Defibrillators can also restore the heart's beating if the heart suddenly stops. Different types of defibrillators work in various ways. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), which are in many public spaces, were developed to save the lives of people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Even untrained bystanders can use these devices in an emergency.

Nearly half of all deaths from cardiovascular disease are sudden and unexpected. Most sudden cardiac deaths occur before hospital admission. The delay from cardiopulmonary arrest to defibrillation is a significant independent predictor of survival. Two minutes after the arrest, around two-thirds of victims have rhythms amenable to defibrillation, but this percentage decreases rapidly with time. It is imperative to minimize the delay from calling the emergency medical service to their arrival at the arrest scene. However, some delay is inevitable. Therefore, interest has grown in complementary strategies whereby defibrillation can be administered while waiting for the emergency medical service to arrive.

There is growing interest in developing strategies that will enable defibrillation to be administered while waiting for the emergency medical service to arrive. This Act is one of the strategies.

This bill seeks to equip both public and private places for a swift response during times of emergency. Immediate attention and intervention in such cases can double the victim's chances of survival and lessen neurologic dysfunction. By requiring establishments to have Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) and at least one (1) individual capable of or knowledgeable of using AEDs and or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), we can save lives.

This proposed measure was filed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress by the undersigned and approved by the House Committee on Health on 05-08-2023 in consolidation with other House bills of the same.

Respectfully submitted.

**CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**  
Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> District, Leyte



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**DEFIBRILLATORS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
ACT**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be referred to as the “Defibrillators in Public Places Act”.

**SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

1. ‘Automated External Defibrillator’ (AED) device refers to an electrical device used to counteract fibrillation of the heart muscle and restore a normal heartbeat by applying a brief electric shock;
2. ‘Public Access Defibrillator’ (PAD) device refers to those that are placed in government buildings, private places, and other public places as defined in this section;
3. Public places mean all places, fixed or mobile, that are accessible or open to the public or places for collective use, regardless of ownership or right to access, including but not limited to schools, workplaces, government facilities establishments that provide food and drinks, accommodation, merchandise, professional services, entertainment, or other services. It also includes outdoor spaces where facilities are available for the public or where a crowd of people would gather, such as, but not limited to, playgrounds, sports grounds or centers, church grounds, health/hospital compounds, transportation terminals, markets, parks, resorts, walkways/sidewalks, entranceways, waiting areas, and the like.

**SECTION 3. *Guidelines on Placement.*** - The following requirements shall be followed in all public places:

- a. Public places defined under this Act shall supply and maintain an AED device, as defined in this Act, on-site in each establishment open to the public. The AED device shall be placed in an accessible location within the building and shall be made available at all times.
- b. The PAD should come with visible signage and be maintained in an accessible location within the government building, private places, or other private places;
- c. The Secretary of Health shall establish guidelines with respect to placing automated external defibrillator devices in public places
- d. The Secretary of Health, together with the Head of the public places, shall develop and implement training courses and on-site training to select employees for the use of such devices and ensure cascading of training to other employees. The training and instruction shall include programs that have been developed by the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) or the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) using nationally recognized and evidence-based guidelines for emergency cardiovascular care and psychomotor training. As far as practicable, AED training shall be part of the employees’ orientation program.



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**SECTION 4. *Appropriation.*** - The amount 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.

**SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**APPROVED,**