

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4493



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**Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

A sudden cardiac arrest is a life-threatening condition where the heart ceases pumping blood to the rest of the human body— putting one at risk of death. Emergency treatment of such a circumstance include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation.

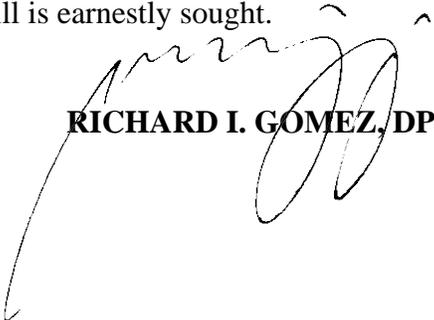
An automated external defibrillator (AED) is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It is a sophisticated, easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart’s rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

Furthermore, almost 80% of cardiac arrests happen outside the hospital setting. According to the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), the prompt application of a defibrillator (within one to three minutes) is the key to survival in such emergencies. Unfortunately, access to AED in the Philippines is limited, unlike in more developed countries where there are established systems for emergency response and have defibrillators accessible to the public.

Because heart disease is one of the leading causes of mortality among adults, accounting for close to 20% of all deaths per Department of Health, it would be no surprise that cardiac arrest constitutes the predominant emergency of this nature.

Thus, this bill seeks to require the installation of automated external defibrillator (AED) in high-density, high-traffic and cardiac emergency prone buildings, such as public pools, venues for large gathering, schools, offices and industrial work places. CPR saves lives, but the availability of AEDs allow for more lifesaving options. With AEDs installed in public and private buildings, that are easily accessible to the public, coupled with the appropriate training for its use, deaths resulting from sudden cardiac arrests could be averted or minimized.

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

  
**RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA**

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**AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATORS (AED) IN HIGH-TRAFFIC CARDIAC EMERGENCY PRONE  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the “*Installation of AEDs in High Traffic Buildings Act.*”

**SEC. 2. Rationale.** It is the policy of the State to protect the health of its citizens and instill health consciousness in society. It is found that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are effective in saving individuals in the event of cardiac arrest, one of the leading causes of mortality in the Philippines. The installation of AEDs in high traffic, emergency prone buildings is expected to help resuscitate individuals during cardiac emergencies occurring outside the hospital setting.

**SEC. 3. Coverage.** The Department of Health (DOH) shall define the type, use, traffic density and occupancy density of buildings that shall be required to install Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The DOH shall also recommend the number and physical placement of AEDs in specified buildings. The definitions, recommended number and recommended building placements shall constitute the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

**SEC. 4. Personnel and Training.** Administrators of buildings defined in Section 3 and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act shall ensure the availability of personnel

trained in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) during hours of active use of said buildings.

**SEC. 5. *Enforcement.*** Buildings defined in Section 3 and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act shall be required to: (a) Install the recommended number of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), and (b) Adhere to recommended placements within the buildings, as a requirement in the application for business permits from the local government unit (LGU), pursuant to Section 18 of R.A. 7160, or the Local Government Code.

**SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue the guidelines in the installation of AEDs in private and public places.

**SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

**SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,