



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Representative Donovan, Chair

From: Elisabeth K. Hubbard, Executive Secretary

Re: 26 HOUSE 8366 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

Legislation Committee finds this bill Beneficial with Amendment

In Rhode Island there is only one Center for Independent Living, the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL). Equipping the CIL with defibrillators is a sensible safety precaution as it is a community hub for people with disabilities. The Center hosts many events on-site including lunch-and learns, support groups and council meetings. It is my understanding that OSIL has already equipped its two locations with defibrillators and provided staff training. The GCD is still concerned, however, about the cost of maintenance and continuing training of the staff.

As the designated state agency for Part B of the Independent Living Grant, we are very familiar with OSCIL's activities and financial situation. Given the restrictions on what they can spend their federal funding on and the small amount of funding that is available, there is little left for further spending. If defibrillators will be mandated by statute, we would request that the General Assembly also consider including funding for maintenance, replacement and training for defibrillator devices at OSCIL.