



H.R. 4926 – JOSH MILLER HEARTS ACT

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4926 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Betty Sutton (D-OH) on December 19, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.R. 4926 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 9, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4926 amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by directing the Secretary of Education to provide grants to local educational agencies for the purchase of automated external defibrillators (AED) to be stationed in the school building and/or to provide training so that at least five adult employees or volunteers at each school with an AED successfully complete training in its use and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). To be eligible to receive a grant under the bill, the educational agency must provide at least \$1 from a public or private (non Federal) source for every \$3 received from Federal sources.

The legislation requires that educational agencies receiving AED devices under this bill to demonstrate that it has met the all requirements for the use of the AED, including having at least five adult employees or volunteers at the school who are certifiably trained to use the device. Also, the educational agency must notify all local emergency response services of the location of the devices in the school.

The bill gives priority to schools which do not already have AED devices, have greater numbers of students and employees, and require more time for emergency medical services to reach the school.

H.R. 4926 authorizes such sums as may be necessary for 2008 through 2013.

BACKGROUND

AED devices provide high voltage electrical shocks to a dying heart to normalize the heart beat. AEDs are computerized defibrillators that talk users through the use of the device in an emergency. According to USAToday, many schools across the United States have begun to equip themselves with AED devices. Since 2005, thirteen lives have been saved in Ohio schools through the use of defibrillators stationed in schools, and 38 lives have been saved in New York since 2002. Currently, AED devices are required in all airplanes as well as in all federal buildings.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (P.L. 89-10) was signed into law by President Johnson on April 11, 1965. The Act provided funding for public and private elementary and secondary education. Authorizations in the Act provided funding for the purchase of educational materials, providing resources for educational programs, and the professional development of educational workers. The ESEA was most recently reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110) which most ESEA programs authorized through 2008.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 4926 as of June 7, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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