

1 WHEREAS, a victim of sudden cardiac arrest who is not
2 defibrillated within 8 to 10 minutes has little chance of
3 survival, and

4 WHEREAS, even the best emergency medical providers are
5 often unable to respond to victims of sudden cardiac arrest
6 within the necessary 4 minutes after collapse, and

7 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers who have been
8 equipped with AEDs in their cars have saved lives, and

9 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are frequently the
10 first responders to an emergency medical situation, and

11 WHEREAS, communities have greater numbers of law
12 enforcement officers than emergency medical personnel, and

13 WHEREAS, victims of sudden cardiac arrest have a
14 greater chance of survival in communities where law
15 enforcement vehicles are equipped with AEDs, and

16 WHEREAS, AEDs allow trained law enforcement officers to
17 quickly and safely deliver defibrillation before emergency
18 medical personnel can arrive, and

19 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are continuously on
20 patrol and are poised to respond immediately to emergencies,
21 and

22 WHEREAS, equipping law enforcement vehicles with AEDs
23 can save lives, NOW, THEREFORE,

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25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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27 Section 1. (1)(a) The Legislature finds that placing
28 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in law enforcement
29 vehicles will save lives.

30 (b) The Legislature further finds that law enforcement
31 officers have an established public role as guardians of

1 public safety and are in a unique position to help reduce
2 death from sudden cardiac arrest. Therefore, the Legislature
3 intends to promote and encourage law enforcement agencies to
4 equip their vehicles with AEDs.

5 (2) As used in this section, the term:

6 (a) "AED" means an automated external defibrillator.

7 (b) "Department" means the Department of Law
8 Enforcement.

9 (c) "Law enforcement agency" means any law enforcement
10 service provider, including a police department, a sheriff's
11 office, and the Florida Highway Patrol.

12 (d) "Law enforcement vehicle" means any marked or
13 unmarked automobile used by a law enforcement agency to serve
14 the community or patrol a specific area.

15 (3) The department shall administer a grant program to
16 provide funds to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of
17 placing AEDs in law enforcement vehicles.

18 (4)(a) A law enforcement agency shall provide matching
19 funds of at least 25 percent in order to be eligible for
20 funding when making a grant request.

21 (b) A law enforcement agency that serves a rural
22 community as defined in section 288.0656, Florida Statutes,
23 which requests a grant is not required to provide a 25-percent
24 match, but must provide matching funds of at least 10 percent
25 in order to be considered for funding. The department shall
26 give priority consideration to grant applications received
27 from rural law enforcement agencies.

28 (5) A local government may use funds derived from
29 forfeiture proceedings to purchase automated external
30 defibrillators for law enforcement, firefighting, and
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1 emergency medical services vehicles and to train personnel on
2 the proper use of the AED equipment.

3 (6) The department shall adopt rules for administering
4 the Automated External Defibrillator grant program by
5 September 1, 2005.

6 Section 2. (1) The sum of \$4.8 million is
7 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department
8 of Law Enforcement for the purpose of implementing a
9 competitive grant program during the 2005-2006 fiscal year for
10 placing automated external defibrillators in law enforcement
11 vehicles.

12 (2) The department may spend up to 3 percent of the
13 funds received under subsection (1) for administrative costs.

14 (3) The department shall carry over any unused funds
15 from the 2005-2006 fiscal year for a period not to exceed 2
16 years for the purpose of distributing any remaining funds to
17 law enforcement agencies through the Automated External
18 Defibrillator grant program.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
20 law.

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22 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
23 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
24 Senate Bill 328

25 The CS modifies the definition of "law enforcement vehicle" to
26 specify that it is a vehicle used by a law enforcement agency.
27 The CS describes the grant program as the "Automated External
28 Defibrillator Grant Program" and provides that the FDLE must
29 give priority consideration to grant applications from rural
30 law enforcement agencies. FDLE is authorized to spend up to 3
31 percent of the Grant funds for administrative cost.

29 The CS also provides that a local government may use funds
30 derived from forfeiture proceedings to purchase AEDs for law
31 enforcement, firefighting, and emergency medical services
vehicles and to train personnel on the proper use of the AED
equipment.