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2 An act relating to automated external  
3 defibrillators in law enforcement vehicles;  
4 providing legislative findings and intent;  
5 providing definitions; requiring the Department  
6 of Law Enforcement to administer a grant  
7 program to fund the placement of automated  
8 external defibrillators in law enforcement  
9 vehicles; limiting the amount of such grants to  
10 amounts specifically appropriated; providing  
11 for administrative costs; requiring a law  
12 enforcement agency to provide matching funds  
13 when making a grant request; providing an  
14 exception; providing for priority consideration  
15 for certain applications; requiring the  
16 department to adopt rules; providing an  
17 effective date.

18  
19 WHEREAS, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) have  
20 saved numerous lives in Florida from sudden cardiac arrest,  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, currently only 5 percent of sudden cardiac  
23 arrest victims survive, and

24 WHEREAS, early defibrillation is critical in saving  
25 lives from sudden cardiac arrest, and

26 WHEREAS, a victim of sudden cardiac arrest who is not  
27 defibrillated within 8 to 10 minutes has little chance of  
28 survival, and

29 WHEREAS, even the best emergency medical services  
30 systems are often not able to respond to victims of sudden  
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1 cardiac arrest within the necessary 4 minutes after collapse,  
2 and

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

5 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are frequently first  
6 on the scene in an emergency medical situation, and

7 WHEREAS, communities have greater numbers of law  
8 enforcement officers than emergency medical service personnel,  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, victims of sudden cardiac arrest have a  
11 greater chance of survival in communities where law  
12 enforcement officers are equipped with AEDs, and

13 WHEREAS, AEDs allow trained lay rescuers to quickly and  
14 safely deliver defibrillation before emergency medical service  
15 personnel can arrive, and

16 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are continuously on  
17 patrol and are poised to respond immediately to emergencies,  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, equipping law enforcement vehicles with AEDs  
20 can save lives, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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24 Section 1. (1)(a) The Legislature finds that placing  
25 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in law enforcement  
26 vehicles will save lives.

27 (b) The Legislature further finds that law enforcement  
28 officers have an established public role as guardians of  
29 public safety and are in a unique position to help reduce  
30 death from sudden cardiac arrest. Therefore, the Legislature  
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1 intends to promote and encourage law enforcement agencies to  
2 equip their vehicles with AEDs.

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

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

5 (b) "Department" means the Department of Law  
6 Enforcement.

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

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

13 (3) The department shall administer a grant program to  
14 provide funds to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of  
15 placing AEDs in law enforcement vehicles. Grants awarded by  
16 the department shall be limited to amounts specifically  
17 appropriated each year for the purposes of this section. The  
18 department may spend up to 3 percent of the funds received  
19 under this section for administrative costs.

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

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

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1           (5) The department shall adopt rules for administering  
2 the Automated External Defibrillator Grant Program by  
3 September 1, 2005.

4           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
5 law.

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