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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to automated external defibrillators in law enforcement vehicles; providing legislative findings and intent; providing definitions; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to administer a grant program to fund the placement of automated external defibrillators in law enforcement vehicles; requiring a law enforcement agency to provide matching funds when making a grant request; providing an exception; providing for priority consideration for certain applications; requiring the department to adopt rules; providing an appropriation; providing for administrative costs; providing for unused funds to be carried over for a specified period; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers who have been equipped

29 with AEDs in their cars have saved lives, and

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

32 WHEREAS, communities have greater numbers of law  
33 enforcement officers than emergency medical service personnel,  
34 and

35 WHEREAS, victims of sudden cardiac arrest have a greater  
36 chance of survival in communities where law enforcement officers  
37 are equipped with AEDs, and

38 WHEREAS, AEDs allow trained lay rescuers to quickly and  
39 safely deliver defibrillation before emergency medical service  
40 personnel can arrive, and

41 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are continuously on  
42 patrol and are poised to respond immediately to emergencies, and

43 WHEREAS, equipping law enforcement vehicles with AEDs can  
44 save lives, NOW, THEREFORE,

45

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

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48 Section 1. (1)(a) The Legislature finds that placing  
49 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in law enforcement  
50 vehicles will save lives.

51 (b) The Legislature further finds that law enforcement  
52 officers have an established public role as guardians of public  
53 safety and are in a unique position to help reduce death from  
54 sudden cardiac arrest. Therefore, the Legislature intends to  
55 promote and encourage law enforcement agencies to equip their  
56 vehicles with AEDs.

57           (2) As used in this section, the term:  
 58           (a) "AED" means an automated external defibrillator.  
 59           (b) "Department" means the Department of Law Enforcement.  
 60           (c) "Law enforcement agency" means any law enforcement  
 61 service provider, including a municipal police department, a  
 62 county sheriff's office, and the Florida Highway Patrol.  
 63           (d) "Law enforcement vehicle" means any marked or unmarked  
 64 automobile used by a law enforcement agency to serve the  
 65 community or patrol a specific area.  
 66           (3) The department shall administer a grant program to  
 67 provide funds to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of  
 68 placing AEDs in law enforcement vehicles.  
 69           (4)(a) A law enforcement agency shall provide matching  
 70 funds of at least 25 percent in order to be considered for  
 71 funding when making a grant request.  
 72           (b) A law enforcement agency that serves a rural community  
 73 as defined in s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes, which requests a  
 74 grant is not required to provide a 25-percent match, but must  
 75 provide matching funds of at least 10 percent in order to be  
 76 considered for funding. The department shall give priority  
 77 consideration to grant applications from rural law enforcement  
 78 agencies.  
 79           (5) The department shall adopt rules for administering the  
 80 Automated External Defibrillator Grant Program by September 1,  
 81 2005.  
 82           Section 2. (1) The sum of \$4.8 million is appropriated  
 83 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Law  
 84 Enforcement for the purpose of implementing a competitive grant

HB 0359

2005

85 program during the 2005-2006 fiscal year for placing automated  
86 external defibrillators in law enforcement vehicles.

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

89 (3) The department shall carry over any unused funds from  
90 the 2005-2006 fiscal year for a period not to exceed 2 years for  
91 the purpose of distributing any remaining funds to law  
92 enforcement agencies through the Automated External  
93 Defibrillator Grant Program.

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