



**February 3, 2025**

**Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center for Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) in conceptual support of S.B. No. 1190 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES TO BE EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.**

The Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center for Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL), a trade association of skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities offers support for the concept raised S.B. No. 1190 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES TO BE EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.

S.B. 1190 would require by January 1, 2026 that the administrator of each nursing home and each assisted living facility (1) provide and maintain an automated external defibrillator in a central location on the premises of the home or facility, (2) make such central location known and accessible to staff members and residents of the home or facility and family members of such residents who visit the home or facility, (3) ensure that at least one staff member of the home or facility, who is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association, is on the premises of the home or facility during all hours of operation, and (4) maintain and test the automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.

As background, a comprehensive report of the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research (OLR) provides an overview of the settings in which defibrillators are currently required or proposed to be required:

This report provides an overview of Connecticut law on automatic external defibrillators and describes legislative proposals that did not pass that would require AEDs in additional settings. It updates OLR Report 2012-R-0187. Summary Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) An AED is generally a portable automatic device used to restore normal heart rhythm to people having heart attacks. If the heart is in ventricular fibrillation (i.e., beating abnormally), the device recommends a defibrillating shock to restore a regular rhythm. The shock is delivered through adhesive electrode pads. Connecticut law requires AEDs in certain establishments, including schools (provided funding is available), public golf courses, and higher education institution athletic departments. State regulations also require defibrillation equipment (not necessarily AEDs) in certain medical settings. State law addresses other topics related to AEDs, such as (1) training standards for AED use by certain professionals and (2) immunity related to negligently providing, maintaining, or using an AED in certain circumstances. In addition to bills that have passed, there have been several legislative proposals that would require AEDs in health clubs, specified health care facilities, or other settings. See OLR Report 2018-R-0332.

The OLR report also notes provides that “Certain Medical Settings Department of Public Health regulations require defibrillation equipment in various medical settings, such as dialysis units (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 19-13-D55a(1)) and out-patient surgical facilities operated by corporations other than hospitals (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 19-13-D56(i)).” See OLR Report 2018-R-0332.

Connecticut skilled nursing facilities, are licensed and regulated pursuant to 17b-490 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which include a 24/7 RN requirements and state minimum staffing requirements, are well positioned to comply with the defibrillator requirements proposed in S.B. 1190. It should also be noted that any costs associated with state mandates such as those included in S.B. 1190 would be reimbursable under Medicaid in accordance with 17b-340 of the Connecticut General Statutes. However, Connecticut assisted living communities are not regulated, reimbursed by Medicaid, or staffed with any similarity to Connecticut skilled nursing homes.

CAHCF/CCAL offers to provide any additional information, or participate in any way the committee may need as it further deliberates on S.B. 1190.

Thank you.

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