



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 486
[2005 Senate Bill 186]

**Civil Liability Immunity for Use of
Automated External Defibrillators**

In response to advances in defibrillator technology represented by current automated external defibrillators, Act 486 revises training and related requirements and civil liability immunity for acts and omissions in rendering emergency care in good faith that currently apply to the use of “semiautomatic” defibrillators.

Act 486:

- Substitutes the term “automated external defibrillator” for the term “semiautomatic defibrillator” in the provisions of current law treated by the Act (an automated external defibrillator may be used either as a semiautomatic or automatic defibrillator);
- Eliminates current training requirements in the use of defibrillators by laypersons but extends civil liability immunity for persons not acting in an official capacity* who in good faith render emergency care with a defibrillator to include automated external defibrillators;
- Eliminates the current requirement that a person who provides a public access defibrillator notify in writing the nearest emergency medical services program; and
- Extends the current civil liability immunity that applies to certain persons who provide training in the use of defibrillators to any person who provided training to the person who renders care.

* Not covered by the liability immunity are health care professionals who remove emergency care for compensation and within the scope of their usual and customary employment or practice at or enroute to a hospital or other institution equipped with hospital facilities, at the scene of an emergency or accident, or at a physician’s office. s. 895.48 (4) (b) 2., Stats.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

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