



The Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Room 3 East Wing, Miller Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 16, 2022

RE: Senate Bill 0294: *Health - Automated External Defibrillator, First Aid, and CPR - Requirements for Health Clubs*

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jeff Perkins. I am the Vice President of Government Relations for the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA), the leader in education, research and advocacy for the health and fitness industry, representing health clubs and fitness businesses worldwide, as well as in Maryland.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 0294 (S.B.0294). IHRSA has long supported policies that encourage health clubs to house an AED. So long as the law, or bill, contains necessary liability protections—use and non-use—for club owners and their employees, reasonable staffing requirements for staffed and unstaffed clubs, and adequate time to comply with any new rules.

S.B.0294 would require all health clubs in the state to maintain and make available an AED on premises and have an employee trained in first aid and CPR onsite when open for business. As previously stated, IHRSA is supportive of the maintenance of AEDs in health clubs. However, we are concerned about the requirement to have a trained staff member present at all times when open for business.

Health clubs and other health and fitness businesses serve a diverse group of consumers who all are seeking different things from their facility. In order to provide increased flexibility and consumer choice, many health clubs operate with unstaffed hours, typically either late at night or early in the morning. These unstaffed hours ensure that the health club will be accessible to the consumer regardless of a consumer's schedule. By operating unstaffed during off-peak times, staffing costs as a whole are reduced and the consumer benefits with increased flexibility and an affordable rate.



IHRSA respectfully requests the amending of S.B.0294 to change the staffing requirement to only require an employee trained in CPR and first aid to be on site during staffed business hours.

Such an amendment would allow health clubs to continue offering their consumers increased choice and flexibility, while ensuring that Maryland health clubs are keeping their members safe by maintaining an AED on premises.

Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter. If the committee would like any information about Maryland health clubs, please contact me at jdp@ihrsa.org or (617) 951-0055.

Sincerely,

Jeff Perkins
IHRSA Vice President of Government Relations