

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-225 of the Code of Virginia, relating to automated external  
3 defibrillators; immunity.

4 [H 1988]  
5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 8.01-225 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 8.01-225. Persons rendering emergency care, obstetrical services exempt from liability.**

9 A. Any person who:

10 1. In good faith, renders emergency care or assistance, without compensation, to any ill or injured  
11 person (i) at the scene of an accident, fire, or any life-threatening emergency; (ii) at a location for  
12 screening or stabilization of an emergency medical condition arising from an accident, fire, or any  
13 life-threatening emergency; or (iii) en route to any hospital, medical clinic or doctor's office, shall not be  
14 liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such care or  
15 assistance.

16 2. In the absence of gross negligence, renders emergency obstetrical care or assistance to a female in  
17 active labor who has not previously been cared for in connection with the pregnancy by such person or  
18 by another professionally associated with such person and whose medical records are not reasonably  
19 available to such person shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from  
20 the rendering of such emergency care or assistance. The immunity herein granted shall apply only to the  
21 emergency medical care provided.

22 3. In good faith and without compensation, including any emergency medical services technician  
23 certified by the Board of Health, administers epinephrine in an emergency to an individual shall not be  
24 liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of  
25 such treatment if such person has reason to believe that the individual receiving the injection is suffering  
26 or is about to suffer a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

27 4. Provides assistance upon request of any police agency, fire department, rescue or emergency  
28 squad, or any governmental agency in the event of an accident or other emergency involving the use,  
29 handling, transportation, transmission or storage of liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas,  
30 hazardous material or hazardous waste as defined in § 10.1-1400 or regulations of the Virginia Waste  
31 Management Board shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act of commission or  
32 omission on his part in the course of his rendering such assistance in good faith.

33 5. Is an emergency medical care attendant or technician possessing a valid certificate issued by  
34 authority of the State Board of Health who in good faith renders emergency care or assistance whether  
35 in person or by telephone or other means of communication, without compensation, to any injured or ill  
36 person, whether at the scene of an accident, fire or any other place, or while transporting such injured or  
37 ill person to, from or between any hospital, medical facility, medical clinic, doctor's office or other  
38 similar or related medical facility, shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions  
39 resulting from the rendering of such emergency care, treatment or assistance, including but in no way  
40 limited to acts or omissions which involve violations of State Department of Health regulations or any  
41 other state regulations in the rendering of such emergency care or assistance.

42 6. In good faith and without compensation, renders or administers emergency cardiopulmonary  
43 resuscitation (CPR), cardiac defibrillation, including, but not limited to, the use of an automated external  
44 defibrillator (AED), or other emergency life-sustaining or resuscitative treatments or procedures which  
45 have been approved by the State Board of Health to any sick or injured person, whether at the scene of  
46 a fire, an accident or any other place, or while transporting such person to or from any hospital, clinic,  
47 doctor's office or other medical facility, shall be deemed qualified to administer such emergency  
48 treatments and procedures and shall not be liable for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of  
49 such emergency resuscitative treatments or procedures.

50 7. Operates an automated external defibrillator AED at the scene of an emergency, trains individuals  
51 to be operators of automated external defibrillators AEDs, or orders automated external defibrillators  
52 AEDs, shall be immune from civil liability for any personal injury that results from any act or omission  
53 in the use of an automated external defibrillator AED in an emergency where the person performing the  
54 defibrillation acts as an ordinary, reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar  
55 circumstances, unless such personal injury results from gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct  
56 of the person rendering such emergency care.

57 8. *Maintains an AED located on real property owned or controlled by such person shall be immune*  
58 *from civil liability for any personal injury that results from any act or omission in the use in an*  
59 *emergency of an AED located on such property unless such personal injury results from gross*  
60 *negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the person who maintains the AED or his agent or*  
61 *employee.*

62 9. Is a volunteer in good standing and certified to render emergency care by the National Ski Patrol  
63 System, Inc., who, in good faith and without compensation, renders emergency care or assistance to any  
64 injured or ill person, whether at the scene of a ski resort rescue, outdoor emergency rescue or any other  
65 place or while transporting such injured or ill person to a place accessible for transfer to any available  
66 emergency medical system unit, or any resort owner voluntarily providing a ski patroller employed by  
67 him to engage in rescue or recovery work at a resort not owned or operated by him, shall not be liable  
68 for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such emergency care,  
69 treatment or assistance, including but not limited to acts or omissions which involve violations of any  
70 state regulation or any standard of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc., in the rendering of such  
71 emergency care or assistance, unless such act or omission was the result of gross negligence or willful  
72 misconduct.

73 9. 10. Is an employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration  
74 of insulin and glucagon, who, upon the written request of the parents as defined in § 22.1-1, assists with  
75 the administration of insulin or administers glucagon to a student diagnosed as having diabetes who  
76 requires insulin injections during the school day or for whom glucagon has been prescribed for the  
77 emergency treatment of hypoglycemia shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence  
78 in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such treatment if the insulin is administered  
79 according to the child's medication schedule or such employee has reason to believe that the individual  
80 receiving the glucagon is suffering or is about to suffer life-threatening hypoglycemia. Whenever any  
81 employee of a school board is covered by the immunity granted herein, the school board employing him  
82 shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the  
83 rendering of such insulin or glucagon treatment.

84 10. 11. Is a school nurse or an employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in  
85 the administration of epinephrine, who provides, administers, or assists in the administration of  
86 epinephrine to a student believed in good faith to be having an anaphylactic reaction, or is the prescriber  
87 of the epinephrine, shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions  
88 resulting from the rendering of such treatment.

89 B. Any licensed physician serving without compensation as the operational medical director for a  
90 licensed emergency medical services agency in ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil  
91 damages for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of emergency medical services in good  
92 faith by the personnel of such licensed agency unless such act or omission was the result of such  
93 physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

94 Any person serving without compensation as a dispatcher for any licensed public or nonprofit  
95 emergency services agency in ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil damages for any  
96 act or omission resulting from the rendering of emergency services in good faith by the personnel of  
97 such licensed agency unless such act or omission was the result of such dispatcher's gross negligence or  
98 willful misconduct.

99 Any individual, certified by the State Office of Emergency Medical Services as an emergency  
100 medical services instructor and pursuant to a written agreement with such office, who, in good faith and  
101 in the performance of his duties, provides instruction to persons for certification or recertification as a  
102 certified basic life support or advanced life support emergency medical services technician shall not be  
103 liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions on his part directly relating to his activities on behalf  
104 of such office unless such act or omission was the result of such emergency medical services instructor's  
105 gross negligence or willful misconduct.

106 Any licensed physician serving without compensation as a medical advisor to an E-911 system in  
107 ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil damages for any act or omission resulting from  
108 rendering medical advice in good faith to establish protocols to be used by the personnel of the E-911  
109 service, as defined in § 58.1-1730, when answering emergency calls unless such act or omission was the  
110 result of such physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

111 Any licensed physician who directs the provision of emergency medical services, as authorized by  
112 the State Board of Health, through a communications device shall not be liable for any civil damages  
113 for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of such emergency medical services unless such act  
114 or omission was the result of such physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

115 Any licensed physician serving without compensation as a supervisor of an ~~automated external~~  
116 ~~defibrillator~~ *AED* in ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil damages for any act or  
117 omission resulting from rendering medical advice in good faith to the owner of the ~~automated external~~

118 ~~defibrillator AED~~ relating to personnel training, local emergency medical services coordination, protocol  
119 approval, ~~automated external defibrillator AED~~ deployment strategies, and equipment maintenance plans  
120 and records unless such act or omission was the result of such physician's gross negligence or willful  
121 misconduct.

122 C. Any communications services provider, as defined in § 58.1-647, including mobile service, and  
123 any provider of Voice-over-Internet Protocol service, in ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth shall not be liable for  
124 any civil damages for any act or omission resulting from rendering such service with or without charge  
125 related to emergency calls unless such act or omission was the result of such service provider's gross  
126 negligence or willful misconduct.

127 Any volunteer engaging in rescue or recovery work at a mine or any mine operator voluntarily  
128 providing personnel to engage in rescue or recovery work at a mine not owned or operated by such  
129 operator, shall not be liable for civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such  
130 rescue or recovery work in good faith unless such act or omission was the result of gross negligence or  
131 willful misconduct. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Voice-over-Internet Protocol service" or  
132 "VoIP service" means any Internet protocol-enabled services utilizing a broadband connection, actually  
133 originating or terminating in Internet Protocol from either or both ends of a channel of communication  
134 offering real time, multidirectional voice functionality, including, but not limited to, services similar to  
135 traditional telephone service.

136 D. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from liability arising out  
137 of the operation of a motor vehicle.

138 E. [Expired.]

139 F. For the purposes of this section, the term "compensation" shall not be construed to include (i) the  
140 salaries of police, fire or other public officials or personnel who render such emergency assistance, (ii)  
141 the salaries or wages of employees of a coal producer engaging in emergency medical technician service  
142 or first aid service pursuant to the provisions of § 45.1-161.38, 45.1-161.101, 45.1-161.199, or  
143 45.1-161.263, (iii) complimentary lift tickets, food, lodging or other gifts provided as a gratuity to  
144 volunteer members of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc., by any resort, group or agency, (iv) the  
145 salary of any person who (a) owns an ~~automated external defibrillator AED~~ for the use at the scene of  
146 an emergency, (b) trains individuals, in courses approved by the Board of Health, to operate ~~automated~~  
147 ~~external defibrillators AEDs~~ at the scene of emergencies, (c) orders ~~automated external defibrillators~~  
148 ~~AEDs~~ for use at the scene of emergencies, or (d) operates an ~~automated external defibrillator AED~~ at the  
149 scene of an emergency, or (v) expenses reimbursed to any person providing care or assistance pursuant  
150 to this section.

151 For the purposes of this section, an emergency medical care attendant or technician shall be deemed  
152 to include a person licensed or certified as such or its equivalent by any other state when he is  
153 performing services which he is licensed or certified to perform by such other state in caring for a  
154 patient in transit in ~~this~~ *the* Commonwealth, which care originated in such other state.

155 Further, the public shall be urged to receive training on how to use ~~cardiopulmonary resuscitation~~  
156 ~~(CPR) CPR~~ and an ~~automated external defibrillator (AED) AED~~ in order to acquire the skills and  
157 confidence to respond to emergencies using both CPR and an AED.