

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

**SESSION LAW 2009-424  
HOUSE BILL 1433**

**AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY OF PERSONS USING  
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-21.14 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 90-21.14. First aid or emergency treatment; liability limitation.**

(a) Any person, including a volunteer medical or health care provider at a facility of a local health department as defined in G.S. 130A-2 or at a nonprofit community health center or a volunteer member of a rescue squad, who receives no compensation for his services as an emergency medical care provider, who renders first aid or emergency health care treatment to a person who is unconscious, ill or injured,

- (1) When the reasonably apparent circumstances require prompt decisions and actions in medical or other health care, and
- (2) When the necessity of immediate health care treatment is so reasonably apparent that any delay in the rendering of the treatment would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the person,

shall not be liable for damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained by the person or for damages for the death of the person alleged to have occurred by reason of an act or omission in the rendering of the treatment unless it is established that the injuries were or the death was caused by gross negligence, wanton conduct or intentional wrongdoing on the part of the person rendering the treatment. The immunity conferred in this section also applies to any person who uses an automated external defibrillator (AED) and otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

(a1) Recodified as § 90-21.16 by Session Laws 2001-230, s. 1(a).

(b) Nothing in this section shall be deemed or construed to relieve any person from liability for damages for injury or death caused by an act or omission on the part of such person while rendering health care services in the normal and ordinary course of his business or profession. Services provided by a volunteer health care provider who receives no compensation for his services and who renders first aid or emergency treatment to members of athletic teams are deemed not to be in the normal and ordinary course of the volunteer health care provider's business or profession.

(c) In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this section and those of G.S. 20-166(d), the provisions of G.S. 20-166(d) shall control and continue in full force and effect."



**SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.  
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009.

s/ Walter H. Dalton  
President of the Senate

s/ Joe Hackney  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

Approved 2:40 p.m. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009