

FAQ SEIZURE DETECTION DEVICES

Frequently Asked Questions

Keep this sheet handy during your meetings to help answer some of the most frequently asked questions we've heard from legislators. If they ask a question that's not on this sheet and you don't know the answer, please write it down and let our staff know so we can follow-up and get them an answer.

What are the bill numbers?

This legislation does not yet have bill numbers. Rep. Kelly Morrison has agreed to be the House Chief Author, and Sen. Jim Abeler has agreed to be the Senate Chief Author.

Who are the authors in the House?

Rep. Kelly Morrison has agreed to be the House Chief Author. Rep. Robert Bierman has agreed to be a House Co-author.

Who are the authors in the Senate?

Sen. Jim Abeler has agreed to be the Senate Chief Author. The legislation's Co-authors are: Sen. Matt Klien, Sen. Paul Utke, and Sen. Chris Eaton.

On the Senate side, there can only be five authors in total. We have a strategy with certain Senators in mind who we want to become co-authors. Please do not ask Senators to be co-authors.

Is this bill partisan?

No. This bill has both republicans and democrats as authors and supporters.

What committees will it go to?

Seizure Detection Device Legislation will go to the Health Finance and Policy Committee in the House, and the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee in the Senate.

Will this cost anything?

We do not have a fiscal note yet, but are pursuing one. I will let our Advocacy & Public Policy Manager Sara Goodno know that you asked. **An EFMN staff member in your meeting will then contact Sara.**



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How do seizure detection devices work?

There are a number of seizure detection devices that work in different ways, but this legislation would cover those that are FDA approved. Right now that is only the Empatica Embrace 2 watch, but we are hopeful that technological advancements will lead to more FDA approved devices. The watch tracks skin data and temperature, plus convulsions, to send an alert to a family member or caregiver. The device requires a subscription to work.

What does “related service or subscription” mean?

“Related service or subscription supporting the prescribed use of the device” refers to the paid subscription service that is required for the device to work and send alerts.

Who does this legislation benefit?

It specifically benefits those who use Medical Assistance (Minnesota Medicaid) and have convulsive seizures. Seizure detection devices can decrease the risk of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) for individuals with convulsive seizures. It can also increase the quality of life for people with epilepsy and their family/caregivers.

How can a lawmaker support Seizure Detection Devices Legislation?

If they're in the House of Representatives, ask them to sign on as a co-author. If they're a Senator, ask them to make sure it gets a hearing in the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee. We cannot add more Senators as co-authors. You can always ask a lawmaker to vote “yes” if they see it on the floor, and talk to their colleagues about the bill.

How can I (an advocate) help?

Share your story with your lawmaker. Tell them if you have experiences with a seizure detection device, or what the impact of having one would mean to you and your family. Write a letter to the editor and share your support for the bill with your community in a local newspaper. Check out the “Next Steps” handout for other ideas.