

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 113

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to automated external defibrillator programs.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 12, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 57, Salinas. Automated external defibrillator programs.

This measure would urge all California public schools maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to implement an automated external defibrillator program.

WHEREAS, On any given day, 20 percent of the population, both adults and children, occupy our nation's schools according to the National Athletic Trainers Association; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide over 250,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, Eighty percent of sudden cardiac arrests are caused by ventricular fibrillation, a heart rhythm where defibrillation is the only effective treatment; and

WHEREAS, For every minute that passes while a person is in ventricular fibrillation, chances of survival decrease by 10 percent. After six minutes, according to studies conducted by the Mayo Clinic, the chance of resuscitating a sudden cardiac arrest victim is near zero; and

WHEREAS, The average national survival rate for out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests is only 5 percent; and

WHEREAS, Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) make it possible for nonmedical rescuers to deliver potentially lifesaving defibrillation to victims of sudden cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has already mandated every commercial airplane to have an AED on board. A sudden cardiac arrest event is 30 times more likely to occur in a school than on an airplane; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, one out of every 100,000 to 300,000 high school athletes will die each year from sudden cardiac arrest. A recent study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control showed a total of 23,320 young adults died of sudden cardiac arrest between 1989 and 1996; and

WHEREAS, New York, Nevada, and Ohio require certain schools statewide to implement AED programs, and several states, including Illinois, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, encourage or provide funding for school AED programs. In the State of New York, the lives of a

growing number of schoolage children are being saved through the use of AEDs; and

WHEREAS, The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute recently published the findings of a renowned three-year Public Access to Defibrillation study, which concluded that AEDs double the chance of survival; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That, in order to save the lives of pupils, teachers, staff members, and visitors suffering from sudden cardiac arrest in schools, the Legislature urges all California public schools maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive to implement an automated external defibrillator program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.