

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 146

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159—Relative to Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 12, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 159, Haynes. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim September 12, 2006, as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day, designate the state's observance of September 12 of following years as a commemorative holiday to honor those who died as a result of sudden cardiac arrest, and request public schools and public agencies to observe Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day, as specified.

WHEREAS, Nationwide more than 325,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, which amounts to 900 people per day at a rate of one person every 90 seconds; and

WHEREAS, More Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest than from cancer and car accidents combined; and

WHEREAS, Almost 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before they reach a hospital or obtain other emergency medical attention; and

WHEREAS, Eighty percent of sudden cardiac arrests are caused by ventricular fibrillation, a heart rhythm variance for which defibrillation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) are the only effective treatments; and

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest causes the brain to begin dying within four to six minutes of onset. For every minute that passes while a person is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, 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 almost zero; and

WHEREAS, While sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can prevent these deaths. AEDs enable medical and nonmedical rescuers to deliver a potentially lifesaving defibrillation to sudden cardiac arrest victims. The national sudden cardiac arrest survival rate without defibrillation and CPR is less than 5 percent; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has already mandated that health studios have an AED; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has already mandated every commercial airplane to have an AED on board; and

WHEREAS, A sudden cardiac arrest event is 30 times more likely to occur in a school than on an airplane; and

WHEREAS, On any given day, 20 percent of the population, both adults and children, occupy our nation's schools; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 schoolaged children die each year from sudden cardiac arrest. In the United States, one out of every 100,000 to 300,000 high school athletes will die each year from sudden cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, In communities with strong public access defibrillation programs, the sudden cardiac arrest survival rate, when defibrillation and CPR are provided within the first three minutes, is up to 75 percent; and

WHEREAS, Education, training, and preparedness are critical factors in the ability to successfully save the life of a sudden cardiac arrest victim; and

WHEREAS, Heightened public awareness of how critical time is in providing treatment to sudden cardiac arrest victims can help save lives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims September 12, 2006, as Sudden Cardiac Awareness Day, and designates the state's observance of September 12 of following years as a commemorative holiday for public schools and public agencies to observe Sudden Cardiac Awareness Day thereby honoring and memorializing those who have fallen victim to sudden cardiac arrest, and celebrating those who have survived by the timely use of an Automated External Defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and be it further

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