

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE KATZ

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of requiring the placement of automated external defibrillators in schools.

WHEREAS, sudden cardiac arrest is the most common cause of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated three hundred fifty thousand deaths annually or one thousand deaths a day, and it is the leading cause of disability and increased health care costs; and

WHEREAS, for every minute that passes while a person is in ventricular fibrillation the chances of survival decrease by ten percent even if cardio-pulmonary resuscitation is administered; and

WHEREAS, within four minutes of the heart stopping the sudden cardiac arrest victim can suffer brain damage from the lack of oxygen; and

WHEREAS, 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, sudden cardiac arrest is unpredictable and can happen to anyone even young children; and

WHEREAS, the reports of student athletes who die of sudden cardiac arrest continue to increase and have caused a number of states, including Ohio, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Texas, to require public schools to have automated defibrillators; and

WHEREAS, an automated external defibrillator is a computerized portable medical device that analyzes the patient's heart rhythm and advises the rescuer whether a shock is needed to restore a normal heart beat after an incident of cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association endorsed the chain of survival treatment method that has four pre-hospital steps which significantly improve survival rates after sudden cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals may consult the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association's booklet entitled "Saving Lives in Schools and Sports" as means of determining the potential benefits of installing automated external defibrillators in schools; and

WHEREAS, Physio-Control Incorporated, a division of Medtronic, introduced portable lightweight, modestly priced automated external defibrillators that are relatively simple to learn to use; and

WHEREAS, when considering a school's potential liability the Department of Health and Hospitals should consider the implementation of required training, restricting the use of the device, company-sponsored indemnification programs, and potential legislation that could provide immunity from such liability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of requiring the placement of automated external defibrillators in schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written report of findings and recommendations be submitted to the House Committee on Health and Welfare not later than March 15, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the appropriate personnel within the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES