

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR60072-LG-258 (05/18)

Sponsors: Representative Carney.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION
2 (CPR) AND AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) AWARENESS
3 WEEK.

4 Whereas, heart disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in
5 the United States, and it continues to be the leading cause of death in America; and

6 Whereas, approximately 295,000 emergency medical services-treated
7 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur annually nationwide; and

8 Whereas, nearly 92 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before being
9 discharged from a hospital; and

10 Whereas, sudden cardiac arrest results from an abnormal heart rhythm in most
11 adults, often ventricular fibrillation; and

12 Whereas, only 31.4 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims receive
13 bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and

14 Whereas, prompt delivery of CPR more than doubles the victim's chance of survival
15 by helping to maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain, increasing the amount of time in
16 which an electric shock from a defibrillator may be effective; and

17 Whereas, an automated external defibrillator (AED), even when used by a
18 bystander, is safe, easy to operate, and, if used immediately after the onset of sudden cardiac
19 arrest, highly effective in terminating ventricular fibrillation so the heart can resume a normal,
20 effective rhythm; and

21 Whereas, for every minute without bystander CPR, survival from witnessed cardiac
22 arrest decreases 7-10 percent; and

23 Whereas, the interval between the 911 telephone call and the arrival of emergency
24 medical services personnel is usually longer than five minutes; therefore, a cardiac arrest
25 victim's survival is likely to depend on a public trained in CPR and AED use and access to
26 these lifesaving devices; and

27 Whereas, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the
28 National Safety Council are preparing a public awareness and training campaign on CPR and
29 AED use to be held during the first week of June; and

30 Whereas, the General Assembly joins the national campaign in recognizing CPR
31 and AED Awareness Week and pauses to pay tribute to those who have helped to improve the
32 chances for survival of those having sudden cardiac arrests, including Dr. Peter Safar, who is
33 often referred to as "the Father of CPR" as a result of his pioneering cardiopulmonary
34 resuscitation techniques; Now, therefore,

35 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

36 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes June 1 through 7, 2010, as CPR
37 and AED Awareness Week, commends the good work of the American Heart Association, the



1 American Red Cross, and the National Safety Council, and encourages all Americans to
2 become properly trained in CPR and AED usage.

3 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Dr. Peter Safar and
4 others for their contributions in improving the chances for survival for people having cardiac
5 arrests.

6 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.