

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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By: **Delegates Kelly, Dumais, Kramer, Myers, Riley, and Smigiel**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2009

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Secondary Schools – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instruction**

3 FOR the purpose of urging each county board of education and the Baltimore City
4 Board of School Commissioners to make available American Red Cross
5 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) instruction, the American Heart
6 Association’s Heart Saver CPR curriculum, or an equivalent program to high
7 school students in the county or Baltimore City.

8 WHEREAS, Each year approximately 1,200,000 Americans will suffer an acute
9 myocardial infarction, of which approximately 500,000 will die. Coronary heart disease
10 is the nation’s single leading cause of death; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 75% to 90% of all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests
12 occur at home. Therefore, the ability to properly perform CPR can be the difference
13 between the life and death of a loved one; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 95% of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching
15 the hospital. Medical research confirms brain death commences 4 to 6 minutes after
16 an individual experiences cardiac arrest if CPR or defibrillation does not occur within
17 this time period; and

18 WHEREAS, Effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after the
19 commencement of cardiac arrest, can double a victim’s chance of survival. CPR helps
20 maintain a vital blood flow to the heart and brain and increases the amount of time
21 that an electric shock from a defibrillator may be effective; and

22 WHEREAS, Maryland maintains one of the premier Emergency Medical Service
23 Systems in the nation. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the citizens of the State,
24 including high school students, are incapable of properly performing CPR when
25 confronted with a life-threatening situation; and

26 WHEREAS, There are many benefits high school students can derive from
27 learning CPR, including acquisition of knowledge and skills that can save lives,



1 awareness and mental preparation for emergency situations, increased confidence,
2 enhanced self-esteem, and a sense of contribution to the community; and

3 WHEREAS, Since efforts to teach CPR to adults have been disappointing, the
4 instruction of CPR to high school students is the best means of, over time, educating
5 the population of the State regarding the benefits and need for lifesaving CPR
6 instruction. Studies indicate that high school students are more interested in learning
7 new skills such as CPR and that they acquire the knowledge more quickly and retain
8 it for a longer period of time. Additionally, high school students are frequently more
9 involved in community activities and, therefore, are likely to encounter emergency
10 situations necessitating the use of CPR; and

11 WHEREAS, If high school students throughout the State received CPR
12 instruction, these young adults would be properly prepared to respond to emergencies
13 including cardiac arrest and choking episodes and, therefore, would be able to provide
14 basic lifesaving emergency care; and

15 WHEREAS, Exposure to CPR instruction will stimulate interest in advanced
16 first aid instruction and the pursuit of health care professional training. In addition, it
17 will foster involvement and membership in community fire departments, emergency
18 medical services, and ambulance companies throughout the State, therefore enhancing
19 the prompt response of trained emergency medical service providers to the citizens of
20 the State; and

21 WHEREAS, High schools situated throughout the State provide an appropriate
22 venue for the instruction of lifesaving CPR training; and

23 WHEREAS, With current fiscal constraints on local boards of education
24 budgets, it is strongly encouraged that each local board of education and the Baltimore
25 City Board of School Commissioners pursue, in partnership with local chapters of the
26 American Red Cross and the American Heart Association, local career and volunteer
27 fire and emergency medical services and ambulance companies, local hospitals and
28 health systems, and medical associations, a cooperative means of providing CPR
29 instruction to high school students at a cost that accommodates local board of
30 education budgets; and

31 WHEREAS, It is strongly encouraged that on the satisfactory completion of
32 CPR instruction, a high school student should receive credit equal to the number of
33 hours it took the student to complete the CPR instruction towards the community
34 service required for graduation from a public high school in the State; now, therefore,
35 be it

36 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That each
37 county board of education in the State and the Baltimore City Board of School
38 Commissioners is urged to offer American Red Cross or American Heart Association
39 CPR instruction, or an equivalent program, to high school students in the county or
40 Baltimore City; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Department of
2 Legislative Services to the State Department of Education, 200 W. Baltimore Street,
3 Baltimore, Maryland 21201; the American Red Cross of Central Maryland, 4800 Mt.
4 Hope Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21215; the Maryland State Firemen’s Association,
5 17 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401–1904; the Professional Firefighters of
6 Maryland, 2028 Edmondson Avenue, Catonsville, Maryland 21228–4235; the
7 Maryland State Medical Society, 1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201;
8 the Maryland Hospital Association, 6820 Deerpath Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075;
9 and each local county board of education and the Baltimore City Board of School
10 Commissioners.