**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MAY 2014 AS “WATER SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH” AND TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THIS STATE TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF INSTRUCTION ON WATER SAFETY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

Whereas, drowning ranks as one of the leading causes of death in our nation; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 2005‑2009, there were an average of three thousand five hundred fifty‑three unintentional drownings (non‑boating related) in the United States, an average of ten deaths per day; and

Whereas, children aged five to fourteen most often drown in swimming pools and open water such as rivers, lakes, dams, and canals; and

Whereas, a swimming pool is fourteen times more likely than a motor vehicle to be involved in the death of a child aged four and under; and

Whereas, understanding the precious gift South Carolina children are to the future of this State, the House of Representatives declares May 2014 as “Water Safety Awareness Month”; and

Whereas, attempting to avert the unspeakable tragedies that South Carolina families and communities face upon the drowning and physical damage of children who are simply unaware of the potential dangers of swimming pools and bodies of water, the House of Representatives encourages public school districts of this State to provide at least one hour of instruction on water safety during the month of May. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, declare May 2014 as “Water Safety Awareness Month” and encourage public school districts of this State to provide at least one hour of instruction on water safety during the month of May.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each public school district superintendent of this State.

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