

By: Representative Rye

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL SAFETY AWARENESS TO REDUCE PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTAL DROWNING DEATHS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE UNDER FIVE (5) YEARS OF AGE IN RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL SAFETY AWARENESS TO REDUCE PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTAL DROWNING DEATHS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE UNDER FIVE (5) YEARS OF AGE IN RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS.

WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks seventh in the United State for drowning-related deaths among children under seventeen (17) years of age and the state's drowning rate is sixty percent (60%) higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury and death for children in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, children ages one (1) through four (4) years of age are most likely to drown in a residential swimming pool; and

WHEREAS, creating a barrier around a residential swimming pool is an effective way to prevent drowning deaths among young children; and

WHEREAS, residential swimming pool owners need to be educated on the



benefits of surrounding a residential swimming pool with a barrier that:

- (1) Is at least four feet (4') in height;
- (2) Does not have horizontal open spaces greater than four inches (4") in width; and
- (3) Does not have more than four inches (4") of space between the bottom of the barrier and the surface of the ground or the residential swimming pool deck; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health is encouraged to develop and provide informational and educational material concerning:

- (1) Residential swimming pool barriers; and
- (2) Other residential swimming pool safety measures that may be beneficial to a residential swimming pool owner,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourage and promote residential swimming pool safety awareness to reduce preventable accidental drowning deaths of children who are under five (5) years of age in residential swimming pools.