

By Senator Storms

10-03208-08

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2008 as "Swimming Pool Safety Month."

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has more than one million swimming pools, over 37,000 of which are public facilities regulated by the Department of Health, and

WHEREAS, residential and commercial swimming pools and spas add to the enjoyment, quality of life, and health of the state's residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, swimming pools and spas are recreational facilities promoting the social gathering of families and friends in a large percentage of Florida residences, and

WHEREAS, Florida hotels and condominiums have thousands of swimming pools, spas, and wading pools used by even more visitors and guests, and

WHEREAS, the education of building code and health department officials, swimming pool designers and contractors, and pool owners is paramount to ensuring pool safety, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act was recently signed into law by the President of the United States, providing mandatory safety measures for public pool facilities, incentive programs concerning residential pools, and overall outreach and education on swimming pool safety, and

WHEREAS, a new national consensus safety standard, ANSI/APSP 7 Suction Entrapment Avoidance, was developed in accordance with the American National Standards Institute, and adopted by the Florida Building Commission, making the State of Florida a leader in preventing serious injury from entrapment, and

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30 WHEREAS, chapter 515, Florida Statutes, is the Residential
31 Swimming Pool Safety Act that focuses on backyard pool safety and
32 the prevention of drowning, and

33 WHEREAS, the Florida Swimming Pool Association and the
34 Florida Department of Health's Office of Injury Prevention are
35 co-hosting the 2008 Swimming Pool and Water Safety Forum to
36 increase safety awareness among consumers, pool industry
37 representatives, and government officials, and

38 WHEREAS, the Florida Swimming Pool Association continues to
39 promote safety messages to consumers and strives to educate the
40 pool industry on correct safety measures regarding barriers,
41 entrapment, and child supervision through classes, informative
42 brochures, and the new FSPA Safety Program, and

43 WHEREAS, swimming pool and spa injuries and accidents can be
44 prevented through the responsible behavior and preventative
45 actions of swimmers, pool owners, and those responsible for the
46 facilities, and

47 WHEREAS, mass media communications concerning swimming pool
48 and spa safety during the peak period of use by consumers can
49 create increased safety awareness and promote the installation
50 and use of safety devices, NOW, THEREFORE,

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52 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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54 That the Florida Senate recognizes April 2008 as "Swimming
55 Pool Safety Month" and encourages support from the media and
56 other organizations in advocating practices of pool safety and
57 providing information to the public.