

Regular Session, 2011

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

HEALTH/EMERG MED SERVICE: Extols the benefits of the Heimlich maneuver and encourages schools to teach this lifesaving technique

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of  
3 Education to work together to develop a comprehensive program for elementary,  
4 middle, and high school students as well as students in institutions of higher  
5 education to emphasize, encourage, and teach the Heimlich maneuver.

6       WHEREAS, the Heimlich maneuver is an emergency technique for preventing  
7       suffocation when a person's airway becomes blocked by a foreign object; and

8       WHEREAS, by employing the Heimlich maneuver a foreign body is removed from  
9       the trachea or pharynx, where it prevented the flow of air to a person's lungs; and

10           WHEREAS, the Heimlich maneuver was introduced by Henry J. Heimlich, M.D.,  
11    in 1974; and

12 WHEREAS, since its introduction, the Heimlich maneuver has saved more than fifty  
13 thousand people in the United States alone from choking or drowning; and

14 WHEREAS, Lance Smithson, a part-time emergency medical technician and full-  
15 time fireman with the West Monroe Fire Department was involved in the heroic off-duty  
16 rescue of choking victim, Sandie Winters, by application of the Heimlich maneuver; and

17 WHEREAS, the Heimlich maneuver is typically performed on a victim in the vertical  
18 position, by standing behind the victim with arms wrapped around the victim's waist and  
19 employing an upward thrust just below the rib cage to force air from the lungs; and

20 WHEREAS, the Heimlich maneuver is only used when the victim's airway is totally  
21 obstructed, and he is rendered unable to speak, breathe, or cough the object out; and

1           WHEREAS, with only partial blockage of the throat, the victim can generally work  
2 the object free by his own efforts; and

3           WHEREAS, this lifesaving technique could be the difference between life and death  
4 in an emergency situation; and

5           WHEREAS, teaching students the importance of learning the Heimlich maneuver  
6 can enable them to be prepared to potentially save the life of a fellow student, family  
7 member, friend, or even a stranger; and

8           WHEREAS, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as institutions of higher  
9 education, should all be encouraged to offer qualified instruction on this technique which  
10 may be obtained from emergency medical technicians, the Red Cross, the American Heart  
11 Association, or a person certified to teach this method of choking prevention; and

12           WHEREAS, students should be able to describe all the steps involved in the  
13 Heimlich maneuver and demonstrate proper body position, hand placement, and quick  
14 upward thrusts; and

15           WHEREAS, there are also residual benefits to students learning to perform the  
16 Heimlich maneuver in that they are likely to become more careful in daily activities, thereby  
17 reducing the risks of an accident or injury.

18           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
19 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Education  
20 to work together to develop a comprehensive program for elementary, middle, and high  
21 schools students as well as students in institutions of higher education to emphasize,  
22 encourage, and teach the Heimlich maneuver.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
24 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the superintendent of the  
25 Department of Education.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Hoffmann

HCR No. 106

Urges and requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals and the Dept. of Education to work together to develop a comprehensive program for elementary, middle, and high schools students as well as students in institutions of higher education to emphasize, encourage, and teach the Heimlich maneuver.