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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 381 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, SCAVELLO, DINNIMAN, MCGARRIGLE, BROWNE,  
FONTANA, FARNESE, TEPLITZ, ARGALL, SCHWANK, YUDICHAK,  
RAFFERTY, WHITE, BREWSTER, COSTA, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, AUMENT,  
BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, RESCHENTHALER AND VULAKOVICH,  
MAY 18, 2016

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 18, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 1 through 7, 2016, as  
2 "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External  
3 Defibrillator Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is one of the leading  
5 causes of death in the United States, affecting more than  
6 325,000 individuals of every age each year; and

7 WHEREAS, SCA is an electrical malfunction in the heart that  
8 causes an irregular heartbeat, or arrhythmia, and disrupts the  
9 flow of blood to the brain, the heart and the rest of the body;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, When an individual has SCA, the individual's heart  
12 can suddenly and unexpectedly stop beating; and

13 WHEREAS, Survival of SCA depends upon immediate bystander  
14 intervention, including calling 911 and beginning hands-only  
15 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or treating the victim with  
16 an automated external defibrillator (AED), if available; and

17 WHEREAS, CPR is a lifesaving technique that can be performed

1 by pressing hard and fast on the center of the victim's chest at  
2 a rate of 100 beats per minute; and

3 WHEREAS, CPR, when performed immediately, can double or  
4 triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival; and

5 WHEREAS, AEDs are portable electronic medical devices that  
6 automatically diagnose life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia in  
7 patients; and

8 WHEREAS, AEDs produce a shock that corrects the arrhythmia,  
9 allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm, a process  
10 called defibrillation; and

11 WHEREAS, All first response vehicles, including ambulances,  
12 law enforcement vehicles and many fire engines, should carry an  
13 AED; and

14 WHEREAS, Placing AEDs in optimal public locations where large  
15 groups of people gather, regardless of age or activity, allows  
16 one to be available in case of an SCA emergency; and

17 WHEREAS, Emergency response providers and bystanders are  
18 afforded good samaritan civil immunity when attempting to save a  
19 life with an AED; and

20 WHEREAS, Only one-third of SCA victims receive CPR from  
21 bystanders and fewer than 5% are treated with AEDs before  
22 emergency personnel arrive at the scene, resulting in a survival  
23 rate of only 11%; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals can be proactive by taking a course from  
25 the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross or a  
26 local health training agency to learn how to perform CPR and use  
27 an AED; and

28 WHEREAS, Given that a person's chance of surviving an SCA  
29 increases tremendously with the knowledge and use of both CPR  
30 and an AED, it is vitally important that the public be aware of

1 their importance and their use in saving lives; therefore be it  
2 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of June 1  
3 through 7, 2016, as "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated  
4 External Defibrillator Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.