



SR0125

LRB104 12374 ECR 22610 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is contiguous to the largest body of
3 freshwater on the planet and contains 2,900 lakes, 84,000
4 ponds, and 106,940 miles of streams as well as 880 miles of
5 rivers along its borders; and

6 WHEREAS, Drowning is the number one cause of unintentional
7 deaths for children one to four years of age, and 54% of adult
8 Americans can not swim well enough to save themselves in an
9 emergency; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control
11 (CDC), for every one drowning fatality, eight people are
12 impacted by a non-fatal drowning; and

13 WHEREAS, The Every Child a Swimmer (ECAS) program is a
14 division of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and has a
15 mission to ensure every child learns to swim, reducing the
16 devastating impact of childhood drownings across our nation;
17 the program provides swim lesson scholarships to low income
18 families, allowing every child to acquire the skills to save
19 themselves in an emergency; and

20 WHEREAS, Water safety legislation sponsored by Every Child
21 a Swimmer has been successfully implemented in Florida,

1 Georgia, and Arkansas, requiring all schools K-12 to provide
2 information on the importance of water safety and on local
3 options for swim lessons as well as how to receive lessons at a
4 free or reduced cost; and

5 WHEREAS, These efforts are creating a generation of
6 swimmers who are safer and more prepared around the water; and

7 WHEREAS, By working together to improve water competency,
8 including swimming skills, water safety knowledge, and helping
9 others, water activities can be safer yet just as fun;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage school
13 districts throughout the State of Illinois to consider
14 providing age appropriate education intended to promote safety
15 in, on, and around bodies of water to reduce the risk of injury
16 or drowning; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 delivered to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and
19 the Every Child a Swimmer (ECAS) program.