

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2- 9, 2013, as Beach Safety Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Beach Safety Week

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks established to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is moved to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2-9, 2013, as Beach Safety Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Beach Safety Week; and

WHEREAS, New York State has over 9,700 miles of lake and ocean shoreline; from the Atlantic Ocean and sandy bays, to crystal-clear lakes surrounded by pine forests and secluded swimming holes, our beautiful coastal and inland beaches represent a world renowned recreational resource; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great Empire State and visitors alike are drawn to these beaches and lakes by the millions annually for water and seaside activities; and

WHEREAS, Each year as summer begins, the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) sponsors National Beach Safety Week in an effort to remind beachgoers of the importance of exercising caution in the aquatic environment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Lifesaving Association is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving beach safety in America; its membership includes professional beach lifeguards throughout New York State, joining lifeguards from across the country; and

WHEREAS, Drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States and the second leading cause of accidental death for persons aged 5 to 44; for children in the one to two year age range, drowning is the leading cause of injury death; and

WHEREAS, Death by drowning is only the tip of the iceberg for aquatic injury; it has been found that, for every ten children who die by drowning, 140 are treated in emergency rooms, and 36 are admitted for further treatment in hospitals; and

WHEREAS, The dangers of the aquatic environment can be effectively managed through both the vigilance of professional lifeguards, and public awareness; an informed public is essential to maintaining adequate levels of beach and water safety; and

WHEREAS, Families, youth, and water enthusiasts must remember to: Never Swim Alone, Always Swim Near a Lifeguard, Never Drink Alcohol Before Swimming, Obey Posted Signs and Flags, Respect the Power of the Surf, and Learn to Swim; and

WHEREAS, In recognizing Beach Safety Week, the security and well-being of the people in the communities across the State are enhanced as they take advantage of New York's tremendous water recreational opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2-9, 2013, as Beach Safety Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Beach Safety Week, and to urge all New Yorkers to take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their children while enjoying themselves at the beach this year.