

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 46

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Every year, countless Texans flock to beaches to
2 enjoy the sunshine, sand, and waves, but it is important for
3 visitors to be aware of the potential dangers that can arise from
4 swimming in the ocean; and

5 WHEREAS, Rip currents are powerful, narrow channels of
6 fast-moving water that flow outward to sea; these currents have an
7 average speed of around one to two feet per second, but some can be
8 as fast as eight feet per second; many swimmers are caught off guard
9 by the sensation of being pulled out to sea and react by attempting
10 to swim directly to shore, putting themselves at risk of exhaustion
11 and drowning; and

12 WHEREAS, Signs that a rip current may be present include a
13 break in the wave pattern, a visible channel of choppy, churning
14 water, a line of foam or debris moving seaward, and a difference in
15 water color; if a swimmer is caught in a rip current, he or she
16 should swim parallel to, rather than against the force of the
17 current, until it is weak enough that the swimmer can head to shore;
18 if he or she is unable to escape that way, it is best to float or
19 tread water and signal for help; it is imperative that swimmers
20 remain calm and try to conserve their energy; and

21 WHEREAS, Beach visitors should be mindful of the flag warning
22 system, which is used to signal hazardous conditions in the water,
23 such as strong currents, high bacteria levels, and jellyfish or
24 other marine life; visitors can also receive daily updates on the

1 beach conditions from the National Weather Service; and

2 WHEREAS, Recognizing and being prepared for rip currents and
3 other hazards can save lives, and it is important that Texans take
4 the time to educate themselves about these dangers to ensure that
5 they have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable beach vacation; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
8 hereby designate April as Beach Safety and Rip Current Awareness
9 Month; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
11 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
12 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
13 passed by the legislature.