

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 143

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to California Economic Literacy Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 93, Bogh. California Economic Literacy Week.

This measure would designate the week of October 24, 2005, through October 28, 2005, as California Economic Literacy Week, and would urge Californians to observe these days by working for a better understanding of our economic system.

WHEREAS, Young people should understand our economic system to perform effectively as workers, consumers, savers, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, In turn, this state's economy depends on economically informed and educated citizens to maintain its competitive edge; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, adults and high school pupils do not have a grasp of rudimentary economic concepts, according to a recent Louis Harris poll surveying 1,000 adults and 1,000 high school pupils nationwide; and

WHEREAS, While those polled were nearly unanimous in their belief that basic economics should be taught in high school, both pupils and adults lack a fundamental understanding of scarcity, money, and inflation, with less than half of the participants demonstrating knowledge of these concepts; and

WHEREAS, Legislation in the 1984–85 Regular Session established a one-semester course in economics as a requirement for graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, New standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in November 1988, include an economics strand integrated into the social science curriculum, kindergarten through grade 11, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, The California Council on Economic Education works with the California State University system, other colleges and universities and Centers for Economic Education to help teachers implement new standards; and

WHEREAS, With the leadership of the California Council on Economic Education, the State Board of Education adopted new history social science standards that promote economic reasoning and an understanding of the United States economy in a global setting; and

WHEREAS, An understanding of economics helps pupils view history not as a series of random events, but as the result of decisions made by individuals; and

WHEREAS, These concepts help pupils evaluate major decisions that will affect them for the rest of their lives, including decisions relating to schooling, careers, and marriage; and

WHEREAS, California has made great progress in economic education and is one of only 17 states that include an economics course in the high school graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of the 1998 history social science standards has resulted in economics playing a greater role in classrooms from kindergarten to grade 12; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the week of October 24, 2005, through October 28, 2005, be recognized as Economic Literacy Week in this state, and urges Californians to observe these days by working for a better understanding of our economic system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.