

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin

February 9, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to arts education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 18, as introduced, Ruskin. Arts Education Month.

This measure would declare March 2007 to be Arts Education Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,
2 theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic
3 education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades
4 1 through 12; and

5 WHEREAS, The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational
6 policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and
7 lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all
8 children for success after high school regardless of gender, age,
9 economic status, physical ability, of learning ability; and

10 WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual
11 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of
12 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement
13 learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to
14 offer; and

15 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of
16 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,
17 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social

1 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace
2 and lifelong learning; and

3 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils
4 in grades 1 through 12 by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the
5 Education Code, which provide, in part, “the adopted course of
6 study ... shall include instruction ... in visual and performing arts
7 including dance, music, theatre and visual arts, aimed at the
8 development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
9 expression”; and

10 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality
11 education, and the University of California and the California State
12 University have instituted a policy that includes visual and
13 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school
14 pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature passed and Governor
17 Schwarzenegger signed into law the single largest investment in
18 music and arts education programs in the history of our country,
19 including a block grant of one hundred and five million dollars
20 (\$105,000,000) to support standards aligned instruction in
21 kindergarten and grades 1 through 12; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature also passed and Governor
23 Schwarzenegger signed into law an additional five hundred million
24 dollars (\$500,000,000) to be distributed on a one-time basis for
25 the purchase of visual and performing arts and physical education
26 professional development, supplies, and equipment; and

27 WHEREAS, It is the intent that this funding help implement a
28 comprehensive vision for arts education at the local level, to ensure
29 that every pupil in California benefits from this investment; and

30 WHEREAS, This funding is the first step in investing in quality
31 visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils; and

32 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education
33 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving
34 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of
35 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to
36 give recognition to the state’s outstanding young artists, and to
37 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;
38 now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of

1 March 2007 as Arts Education Month and encourages all legislators
2 to participate with their educational communities in celebrating
3 the arts with meaningful activities and programs for pupils,
4 teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and
5 understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all
6 residents to become interested in and give full support to quality
7 school arts programs for children and youth; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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