

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 8, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Aghazarian, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Benoit, Berg, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Brownley, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeSaulnier, DeVore, Duvall, Dymally, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garcia, Garrick, Hayashi, Hernandez, Horton, Houston, Huff, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Krekorian, La Malfa, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Ma, Maze, Mendoza, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nava, Niello, Nunez, Parra, Plescia, Portantino, Price, Richardson, Sharon Runner, Salas, Saldana, Smyth, Solorio, Spitzer, Strickland, Swanson, Torrico, Villines, Walters, and Wolk)

February 9, 2007

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 18, as amended, 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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of
12 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,
13 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social
14 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace
15 and lifelong learning; and

16 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils
17 in grades 1 through 12 by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the
18 Education Code, which provide, in part, “the adopted course of
19 study ... shall include instruction ... in visual and performing arts
20 including dance, music, theatre and visual arts, aimed at the
21 development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
22 expression”; and

23 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality
24 education, and the University of California and the California State
25 University have instituted a policy that includes visual and
26 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school
27 pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature passed and Governor
30 Schwarzenegger signed into law the single largest investment in
31 music and arts education programs in the history of our country,
32 including a block grant of one hundred five million dollars
33 (\$105,000,000) to support standards-aligned instruction in
34 kindergarten and grades 1 through 12; and

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

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

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

6 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education
7 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving
8 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of
9 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to
10 give recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and to
11 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
15 March 2007 as Arts Education Month and encourages all legislators
16 to participate with their educational communities in celebrating
17 the arts with meaningful activities and programs for pupils,
18 teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and
19 understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all
20 residents to become interested in and give full support to quality
21 school arts programs for children and youth; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.