

Introduced by Senator Scott

January 14, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to the Arts Council’s Arts Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 70, as introduced, Scott. Arts Council: Arts Day.

This measure would recognize the Arts Council’s more than 30 years of service to the state’s residents and visitors. It would also proclaim October 3, 2008 as Arts Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Arts Council was established in January 1976
2 to encourage artistic awareness, participation, and expression; to
3 help independent local groups develop their own arts programs;
4 to promote the employment of artists and those skilled in crafts in
5 both the public and private sector; to provide for the exhibition of
6 artworks in public buildings throughout the state; and to enlist the
7 aid of all state agencies in the task of ensuring the fullest expression
8 of our artistic potential; and
9 WHEREAS, The Arts Council is dedicated to championing the
10 expansion of the arts, artistic excellence, access to the arts for all
11 residents of the state, and equitable resource allocation across
12 geographic and cultural segments; to the integration of the arts
13 into the educational curriculum as part of life-long learning; to the
14 building of cultural bridges between the state and other nations;
15 to the preservation and advancement of the state’s diverse artistic
16 and cultural heritage; and to collaboration between the state’s
17 public and private sectors; and

1 WHEREAS, The stated mission of the Arts Council is to make
2 available and accessible quality art that reflects all of the state's
3 diverse cultures; to support the state's broad economic, educational,
4 and social goals through the arts; to provide leadership for all levels
5 of the arts community; and to present effective programs that add
6 a further dimension to cities, schools, jobs, and the creative spirit;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Arts Council provides organizational and
9 technical assistance to a nonprofit arts industry that contributes
10 more than two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) to the state's
11 economy and one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) in state
12 and local tax revenues, and that provides 150,000 nonprofit arts
13 jobs and an additional 500,000 jobs in the commercial
14 entertainment sector; and

15 WHEREAS, The Arts Council's arts-partnership programs give
16 at-risk and underprivileged youth access to the resources needed
17 for lifetime success in the workplace, universities, schools,
18 churches, businesses, and social services agencies; and

19 WHEREAS, The Arts Council has a 25-year history of
20 partnering with, and supporting, local arts agencies and statewide
21 service organizations, which in turn provide programming and
22 services to local constituencies; and

23 WHEREAS, When the Arts Council celebrated its 25th
24 anniversary, it launched The Year of the Arts—2001, a major
25 public outreach and public awareness campaign to generate support
26 for the importance and impact of the arts in the state. This was the
27 first major public and private sector partnership in the arts designed
28 to build a media and press foundation as the first phase of a
29 multiyear effort to increase the public value for the arts; and

30 WHEREAS, The Arts Council's support from the General Fund
31 was decreased in the 2003–04 fiscal year from 18 million dollars
32 (\$18,000,000) to one million dollars (\$1,000,000), a 94 percent
33 reduction that followed previous cuts from the 32 million dollars
34 (\$32,000,000) directed to the Arts Council in the 2000–01 fiscal
35 year. Such a dramatic reduction affected the Arts Council's
36 programming and administration more radically than any other
37 occurrence in its 27-year history, and required the Arts Council to
38 position itself in a new and very different role while maintaining
39 its commitment to furthering the arts in the state; and

1 WHEREAS, In the year 2004–05 fiscal year, the Arts Council’s
2 budget remained consistent with that of the 2003–04 fiscal year,
3 and as such, the Arts Council continued its focus on efforts that
4 promoted the public benefit of the arts, including infrastructure
5 support for the state’s arts service organizations, grants supporting
6 arts education activities that serve pupils in kindergarten through
7 grade 12, inclusive, and the publishing of “The Arts: A Competitive
8 Advantage for California II,” which updated the Arts Council’s
9 groundbreaking 1994 economic impact report; and

10 WHEREAS, The Arts Council collaborated with the Institute
11 for Local Government, an affiliate of the League of California
12 Cities, to publish “The Economic and Cultural Impact of the Arts
13 in California: Local Officials Tell Their Communities’ Stories,”
14 which describes how the arts bring a competitive edge to local
15 economies, how public art changes the world around us, and how
16 the arts bring people together in the community; and

17 WHEREAS, Through the efforts of the Arts Council, sales of
18 the Arts Council license plate have increased significantly,
19 providing more funding for the Youth Education in Arts, Artists
20 in Schools, and Creating Public Value for the Arts programs; and

21 WHEREAS, The Arts Council has collaborated with the State
22 and Consumer Services Agency and the Public Utilities
23 Commission to provide energy conservation and efficiency grants
24 to artists to work with teachers and students to develop creative
25 approaches that promote energy conservation and energy efficiency
26 in the state; and

27 WHEREAS, The Arts Council also partnered with the
28 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to create artists’
29 residencies in four migrant centers, coordinating arts activities that
30 promote strategies to increase energy efficiency in buildings. More
31 than 500,000 Californians were indirectly served through
32 exhibitions, public service announcements, and performing arts
33 activities; and

34 WHEREAS, The Arts Council and the Department of Parks and
35 Recreation are cooperating in a joint pilot project to bring
36 performing artists to 15 state park venues; and

37 WHEREAS, The Arts Council’s special initiatives—the
38 California Music Project, My California: Journey by Great Writers,
39 the California Poet Laureate, Poetry Out Loud, the Next
40 Generation, International Connection, and the Arts Marketing

1 Institute—promote the state’s creativity and artistry throughout
2 the state, nation, and world; and

3 WHEREAS, The Art Council’s Arts Day special events,
4 commemorations, and other local community events will help
5 change the perception that the arts are merely a luxury, and instead
6 are an integral part of the economic, educational, and social fabric
7 of our state and our nation; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
9 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby recognizes and
10 joins in the commemoration of the Arts Council’s more than 30
11 years of service to the state’s residents and visitors; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims October 3,
13 2008, as Arts Day; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
15 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.