

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 15, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 11, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 54

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Blumenfield, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Hall, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huffman, Jones, Krekorian, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Monning, Nava, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Skinner, Solorio, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo, DeSaulnier, Hancock, Liu, Pavley, Price, Romero, Simitian, and Yee)

March 23, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 54—Relative to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 54, as amended, Brownley. Education finance.

This measure would state the intent of the Legislature that the State of California generate sufficient funds for, and allocate sufficient funds to, education, so as to bring ~~per-pupil~~ *per-pupil* spending up to or beyond the national average, and to a level that accounts for the actual cost of educating California's diverse pupil population.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, School districts cannot be expected to meet
2 performance standards unless they have sufficient funds to support
3 academic success for all pupils; and

4 *WHEREAS, Section 8 of Article XVI of the California*
5 *Constitution requires that money for the support of the public*
6 *school system shall have first priority for allocation from all state*
7 *revenues; and*

8 WHEREAS, California's current education funding system does
9 not address cost differences across schools, school districts, or
10 pupils; and

11 WHEREAS, California's current system of education finance
12 appreciably underfunds schools and school districts, especially
13 those with the largest number of pupils with the highest needs;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts with relatively high
16 concentrations of disadvantaged pupils and those that operate in
17 a high cost environment do not receive sufficient funding to allow
18 pupils to reach the 21st century performance expectations that the
19 state places on them or to allow those schools and school districts
20 to meet the state's current goal on the Academic Performance
21 Index or the federal government's goals with respect to Adequate
22 Yearly Progress; and

23 WHEREAS, California schools and school districts receive
24 fewer revenues, and subsequently spend significantly less, than
25 do schools and school districts in most other states; and

26 WHEREAS, California has one of the highest pupil-to-staff
27 ratios in the country; and

28 WHEREAS, A comprehensive research study requested by the
29 Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, the President Pro Tempore
30 of the Senate, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction found
31 that in 2007 an increase of at least 40 percent in education funding,
32 targeted mostly to low-income schools, would be needed to meet
33 the current expectations placed on California schools; and

34 WHEREAS, Proposition 13, which unfairly restricts corporate
35 property tax increases, has limited the ability to raise the additional
36 revenues necessary to provide the high quality education that
37 Californians expect and to support academic success for all of the
38 state's pupils; and

1 WHEREAS, The cost of providing an education in California,
2 like the overall cost of living, is among the highest in the country;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring*, That it is the intent of the Legislature that the
6 State of California generate sufficient funds for, and allocate
7 sufficient funds to, education, so as to bring ~~per-pupil~~ *per-pupil*
8 spending up to or beyond the national average and to a level that
9 accounts for the actual cost of educating California's diverse pupil
10 population so that all pupils are prepared at the end of their
11 elementary and secondary education experiences for college,
12 careers, and successful participation in our democratic institutions,
13 no matter where they live or what their economic, racial, or ethnic
14 background is; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the Governor, to the Superintendent of Public
17 Instruction, to the Chairs of the Assembly Committees on Budget
18 and on Education, the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Budget
19 and Fiscal Review and on Education, to the Secretary for
20 Education, and to the President of the State Board of Education.