

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

**No. 88**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Members Torlakson and Furutani**  
(Coauthors: Senators Maldonado and Wyland)

August 17, 2009

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to Education.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 88, as introduced, Torlakson. Education.

This measure would establish, until January 1, 2014, the California Task Force on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education for the purpose of advising the California Legislature on critical research, best practices, and models for building a future California workforce educated in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. The task force would generate discussion on policy that would improve the teaching of these subject areas for the state's pupils. The task force would consist of Members of the Legislature and experts appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules. The task force would conduct its business on a volunteer basis, be able to accept private funds, and would submit an annual report on its work to the Legislature.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of California's competitiveness in the
- 2 global economy increasingly depends on our ability to better
- 3 educate our young people in the science, technology, engineering,
- 4 and mathematics subject areas and to attract more of our best and
- 5 brightest students into science, mathematics, engineering, and
- 6 technology careers; and

1 WHEREAS, The most recent 10-year employment projections  
2 by the United States Department of Labor show that of the 20  
3 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 of them require  
4 significant mathematics or science preparation to successfully  
5 compete for a job; and

6 WHEREAS, One-third of fourth graders and one-fifth of eighth  
7 graders nationwide cannot perform basic mathematical  
8 computations, and United States high school seniors recently tested  
9 below the international average for 21 countries in mathematics  
10 and science; and

11 WHEREAS, California pupils ranked 46th out of 50 states in  
12 mathematics proficiency and 42nd in science proficiency on recent  
13 8th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress tests; and

14 WHEREAS, More than 50 percent of California 4th and 8th  
15 grade pupils scored below the basic level in science and 40 percent  
16 ranked below the basic level in mathematics as determined by the  
17 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known  
18 as the Nation's Report Card; and

19 WHEREAS, California schools must engage pupils in science,  
20 technology, and mathematics at a young age and keep them  
21 engaged throughout their education and career pipeline; and

22 WHEREAS, A legislative task force is necessary to provide a  
23 framework for statewide policy and support to California's schools  
24 in order to promote the improvement of science, technology,  
25 engineering, and mathematics education across the state and  
26 thereby enhance California's competitive standing in the global  
27 economy; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the California Task Force on Science,  
30 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education is hereby  
31 established to promote the improvement of mathematics, science,  
32 engineering, and technology education across the state; and be it  
33 further

34 *Resolved*, That the task force shall increase legislative awareness  
35 about mathematics, science, engineering, and technology education  
36 issues, inform legislators regarding trends in mathematics, science,  
37 engineering, and technology education, and raise awareness among  
38 the public regarding the distressing shortage of Californians  
39 prepared to contribute to the state's future technology workforce;  
40 and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the California Task Force on Science,  
2 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education shall be  
3 established for the purpose of raising awareness of educational  
4 issues and shall be nonpartisan in nature; and be it further

5     *Resolved*, That the task force shall be comprised of Members  
6 of the Legislature and experts as follows:

7     (1) The task force shall have 11 voting members, with additional  
8 advisory members and alternates as requested or required.

9     (2) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint all of the  
10 following:

11     (A) The chair and an additional member from the Assembly.

12     (B) One K-12 teacher with current public classroom experience  
13 in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or industrial  
14 arts education and with a membership in a state or national  
15 professional association on science, technology, engineering,  
16 mathematics, or industrial arts education.

17     (C) One post-secondary educator from the science, technology,  
18 engineering, mathematics, or industrial arts education subject areas  
19 with current classroom or administrative experience for the purpose  
20 of advising the task force on articulation of K-12 and postsecondary  
21 curriculum to prepare pupils for higher education.

22     (D) Two representatives of a business or association committed  
23 to supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
24 education in California.

25     (3) The Chair of the Senate Rules Committee shall appoint all  
26 of the following:

27     (A) Two members of the Senate.

28     (B) Two K-12 teachers with current public classroom experience  
29 in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or industrial  
30 arts education and with a membership in a state or national  
31 professional association on science, technology, engineering,  
32 mathematics, or industrial arts education.

33     (C) One representative of a business or association committed  
34 to supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
35 education in California; and be it further

36     *Resolved*, That the Members of the Legislature who serve on  
37 the task force shall serve for a term of two years and only to the  
38 extent that their service is consistent with their duties as Members  
39 of the Legislature; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That nonlegislative members of the task force shall  
2 be at-will appointees serving at the pleasure of the Speaker of the  
3 Assembly and the Chair of the Senate Rules Committee for a term  
4 of up to two years and shall conduct the business of the task force  
5 on a volunteer basis and shall not receive a salary for services nor  
6 be reimbursed for travel or any other expenses incurred in the  
7 performance of their duties as task force members; and be it further

8     *Resolved*, That the task force shall have all of the following  
9 duties:

10     (1) Hold at least one annual meeting, open to the public.

11     (2) Develop and support an Internet Web site for the purpose  
12 of publicizing the task force mission statement and providing  
13 resources to California citizens, educators, and industry employers.

14     (3) Submit a report on the work on the task force annually for  
15 the review of the Legislature; and be it further

16     *Resolved*, That the task force shall accept no state funding and  
17 is authorized to accept private funds and in-kind donation to pay  
18 expenses incurred in conducting task force business; and be it  
19 further

20     *Resolved*, That the task force cease to exist on January 1, 2014,  
21 unless a resolution that is enacted before that date deletes or  
22 extends that date; and be it further

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