

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 145

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Skinner)
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

March 15, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 145—Relative to California
Healthy Schools Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 145, as introduced, Brownley. California Healthy Schools Day.

This measure would recognize April 26, 2010, as California Healthy Schools Day, and would encourage schools and school districts to take proactive and preventative steps to create and maintain healthy school environments.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One in five Californians spend their days in
2 California's 12,000 public and private schools, including more
3 than six million children who spend an average of 30 to 50 hours
4 per week in school; and
5 WHEREAS, Over one-half of schools in the United States have
6 problems linked to unhealthy indoor air quality, according to the
7 United States Environmental Protection Agency, and some
8 classrooms in California have problems of inadequate ventilation,
9 high formaldehyde concentrations, moisture and mold, and toxic
10 residues in dust, according to a study by the State Air Resources
11 Board; and

1 WHEREAS, Children’s developing bodies are more vulnerable
2 to air toxins because they breathe in more air per pound of body
3 weight; and

4 WHEREAS, Poor indoor environmental quality is associated
5 with a wide range of problems, including poor concentration,
6 learning difficulties, respiratory illnesses such as asthma,
7 headaches, fatigue, organ damage, and other serious health effects;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, An average of one out of every six schoolage
10 children in California has asthma, the leading cause of school
11 absenteeism from a chronic illness, accounting for approximately
12 1.9 million missed school days each year. Teachers and custodians
13 have high rates of work-related asthma, and report exposures to
14 cleaning products as a cause of their asthma; and

15 WHEREAS, California schools lose an estimated \$40 million
16 per year for pupils’ asthma-related absences, and lose additional
17 funds from workers compensation claims related to exposure to
18 or injury from cleaning products; and

19 WHEREAS, Hazardous ingredients in cleaning products
20 contribute to poor indoor air quality, as documented in numerous
21 studies, and conventional cleaning products often contain
22 ingredients, including fragrances and preservatives, known to cause
23 cancer, asthma, reproductive harm, organ damage, and other serious
24 health effects; and

25 WHEREAS, The lack of full disclosure of chemical ingredients
26 in cleaning products makes it difficult to know what hazards are
27 in cleaning products used in schools; and

28 WHEREAS, Schools should choose less toxic cleaning products,
29 and cleaning products should be used during periods of time when
30 children are not present and when adequate ventilation is available;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, There are hundreds of widely available and
33 cost-competitive cleaning products that are less toxic and do not
34 contain ingredients known to cause cancer, asthma, reproductive
35 harm, aquatic toxicity, and other environmental hazards; and

36 WHEREAS, Training for school staff in the use of less toxic
37 cleaners is available at no cost through numerous vendors,
38 nonprofit organizations, and public agencies; and

39 WHEREAS, Research has shown improved indoor air quality
40 provides a healthier and safer learning environment for children,

1 teachers, and staff, and also improves academic achievement and
2 well-being; and

3 WHEREAS, Schools that have switched to less toxic cleaning
4 products that do not contain ingredients known to cause cancer,
5 asthma, reproductive harm, organ damage, aquatic toxicity, and
6 other environmental hazards have improved indoor air quality,
7 reduced absenteeism, lowered their costs, and acted proactively
8 to safeguard the health of pupils and staff; and

9 WHEREAS, Actions that schools take to improve indoor air
10 quality and switch to less toxic cleaning products can be eligible
11 for recognition as part of broader green, healthy, and high
12 performance school certification programs; and

13 WHEREAS, April 26, 2010, is National Healthy Schools Day,
14 sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
15 the United States Department of Energy, and more than 35 other
16 organizations, and is observed by communities across the country
17 to celebrate and promote healthy school environments for all
18 children through the use of the United States Environmental
19 Protection Agency’s Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program,
20 focusing in the year 2010 on the use of less toxic cleaning products
21 that help reduce pollutants from indoor air; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved*, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate
23 thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California
24 recognizes April 26, 2010, as California Healthy Schools Day;
25 and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That schools are encouraged to take proactive and
27 preventative steps to create and maintain healthy school
28 environments, including training all staff on best maintenance
29 practices, developing and implementing self-assessments and
30 indoor environmental quality management plans such as following
31 the guidance provided by the United States Environmental
32 Protection Agency’s Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program,
33 using less toxic cleaning products, implementing integrated pest
34 management programs, and ensuring adequate ventilation, as
35 recommended by the State Air Resources Board and the State
36 Department of Public Health; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That school districts are encouraged to consider
38 purchasing less toxic cleaning products that do not contain
39 ingredients known to cause cancer, asthma, reproductive harm,
40 organ damage, aquatic toxicity, and other environmental hazards

1 that are available at discounted rates through cooperative
2 purchasing agreements or other public procurement entities; and
3 be it further

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
6 copies of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
7 the Secretary for Education; the Directors of the State Department
8 of Public Health, the State Air Resources Board, the Department
9 of General Services, and the California Environmental Protection
10 Agency; and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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