

Senate Bill No. 944

CHAPTER 114

An act to amend Section 37222 of, to add Sections 37222.10, 37222.11, 37222.12, 37222.13, 37222.14, and 37222.16 to, and to repeal Section 37222.5 of, the Education Code, and to add Section 6723 to the Government Code, relating to Ronald Reagan Day.

[Approved by Governor July 19, 2010. Filed with
Secretary of State July 19, 2010.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 944, Runner. Special significance days: Ronald Reagan Day.

Existing law designates specified days as having special significance, and specifies how the days of special significance should be observed in public elementary and secondary schools and educational institutions.

This bill would repeal and recast these provisions.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to Ronald Reagan. This bill would designate February 6 of each year as Ronald Reagan Day, and would encourage public schools and educational institutions to engage in exercises remembering the life of Ronald Reagan, as specified.

Existing law requires the Governor to proclaim various days in honor of a person, status, or an event.

This bill would require the Governor to annually proclaim February 6 as Ronald Reagan Day.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Ronald Wilson Reagan was a man of humble background who worked throughout his life serving freedom and advancing the public good, having been employed as an entertainer, union leader, corporate spokesman, Governor of California, and President of the United States.

(b) Ronald Reagan served with honor and distinction for two terms as the 40th President of the United States of America; the second of which he earned the confidence of three-fifths of the electorate and was victorious in 49 of the 50 states in the general election—a record unsurpassed in the history of American presidential elections.

(c) In 1981, when Ronald Reagan was inaugurated President, he inherited a disillusioned nation shackled by rampant inflation and high unemployment.

(d) Ronald Reagan's commitment to the nation's children helped lower crime and drug use in our neighborhoods.

(e) Ronald Reagan’s commitment to our Armed Forces contributed to the restoration of pride in America and her values, and those values cherished by the free world, and prepared America’s Armed Forces to meet 21st century challenges.

(f) Ronald Reagan’s vision of “peace through strength” led to the end of the Cold War.

(g) Members of the Legislature take great pride in honoring Ronald Reagan for his many contributions to our country, and in celebrating his life.

SEC. 2. Section 37222 of the Education Code is amended to read:

37222. (a) On each day designated and set apart as a day having special significance, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to observe that day and to conduct suitable commemorative exercises.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the exercises encouraged by this section be integrated into the regular school program, and be conducted by the school or institution within the amount otherwise budgeted for educational programs.

SEC. 3. Section 37222.10 is added to the Education Code, to read:

37222.10. (a) The second Wednesday in May is designated and set apart as the Day of the Teacher, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On the Day of the Teacher, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises commemorating and directing attention to teachers and the teaching profession.

SEC. 4. Section 37222.11 is added to the Education Code, to read:

37222.11. (a) April 21 of each year is designated and set apart as John Muir Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On John Muir Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises stressing the importance that an ecologically sound natural environment plays in the quality of life for all of us, and emphasizing John Muir’s significant contributions to the fostering of that awareness and the indelible mark he left on the State of California.

SEC. 5. Section 37222.12 is added to the Education Code, to read:

37222.12. (a) April 6 of each year is designated and set apart as California Poppy Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On California Poppy Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises honoring the California Poppy, including instruction about native plants, particularly the California Poppy, and the economic and aesthetic value of wildflowers; promoting responsible behavior toward our natural resources and a spirit of protection toward them; and emphasizing the value of natural resources and conservation of natural resources.

SEC. 6. Section 37222.13 is added to the Education Code, to read:

37222.13. (a) May 22 of each year is designated and set apart as Harvey Milk Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On Harvey Milk Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state.

SEC. 7. Section 37222.14 is added to the Education Code, to read:

37222.14. (a) March 30 of each year is designated and set apart as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those involved in the Vietnam War and remembering the sacrifices they made for their country.

SEC. 8. Section 37222.16 is added to the Education Code, to read:

37222.16. (a) February 6 of each year is designated and set apart as Ronald Reagan Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On Ronald Reagan Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the life of Ronald Reagan, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state.

SEC. 9. Section 37222.5 of the Education Code is repealed.

SEC. 10. Section 6723 is added to the Government Code, to read:

6723. The Governor shall annually proclaim February 6 as Ronald Reagan Day.