

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

January 19, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 7—Relative to the 23rd Annual State Scientist Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 7, as introduced, Williams. 23rd Annual State Scientist Day.

This measure would declare May 18, 2011, as the 23rd Annual State Scientist Day, as a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who work on behalf of all the residents of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The state employs nearly 3,000 professional
2 scientists in over 30 state departments working in more than 230
3 scientific classifications; and
4 WHEREAS, State scientists hold graduate degrees in virtually
5 every scientific discipline, including nematology, virology,
6 seismology, epidemiology, toxicology, and many others; and
7 WHEREAS, State scientists are represented by the California
8 Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), which is dedicated
9 to professionalism, independence, responsible advocacy, and
10 ensuring that state scientists receive fair pay and benefits for their
11 important work; and
12 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger wrote in October 2007
13 that “I value the dedication and work of the State’s scientists, and
14 I am concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind
15 those of comparable workers” and that he wants to ensure “that

1 the State is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable
2 compensation for the scientists”; and

3 WHEREAS, The work of state scientists protects the public
4 from life-threatening diseases, safeguards our wildlife and abundant
5 natural resources, and protects our air and water from toxic waste
6 and pollution; and

7 WHEREAS, State scientists are required to make critical
8 decisions every day based on rigorous scientific factfinding and
9 these decisions ultimately impact the lives and property of all
10 Californians; and

11 WHEREAS, If this state loses its scientific expertise, the state
12 will go unarmed in the battles against greenhouse gas emissions,
13 air pollution, and the overall protection of children’s health,
14 according to a 2006 California Environmental Protection Agency
15 report; and

16 WHEREAS, State scientists perform important work in the areas
17 of infectious disease prevention, oil spill prevention and cleanup,
18 public health drinking water monitoring, the protection of
19 agricultural crops, brownfields mitigation, chemical and
20 radiological disaster response, and much more; and

21 WHEREAS, State scientists host an annual State Scientist Day
22 at the State Capitol to increase public awareness and recognition
23 of the significant contributions made by scientists working in state
24 government while entertaining and educating over 2,000
25 elementary school students with fun, hands-on science exhibits,
26 including digging for hidden artifacts, viewing live fish in a
27 1,500-gallon tank, and playing Pollution Prevention “Wheel of
28 Fortune” and Coastal Creature “Jeopardy”; and

29 WHEREAS, State Scientist Day has sparked an interest in
30 science for thousands of California school children, legislators,
31 state employees, and the public who attend the special event; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That May 18, 2011, shall be recognized as the
35 23rd Annual State Scientist Day, and that this day shall be a tribute
36 to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who
37 work on behalf of all the residents of California; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O