

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 57

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Cedillo, Chesbro, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

May 9, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 57, as amended, Carter. Dropout Recovery Week.

This measure would declare the week June 6 through June 12, 2011, to be Dropout Recovery Week and would state the Legislature's intent to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Research suggests that fewer than 70 percent of
2 9th grade pupils in California, and in some school districts, fewer
3 than 50 percent, graduate from high school; and

4 WHEREAS, A recent survey by the Public Policy Institute of
5 California found that strong majorities of public school parents
6 and adults across political parties, regions, and demographic groups
7 view the dropout rate as a big problem; and

8 WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education
9 demonstrates that if only one-half of the dropouts were recovered
10 in California's six largest metropolitan areas, the economic benefits
11 to California would be staggering: those recovered dropouts would
12 invest an additional \$247 million a year, increase home sales by
13 \$2.92 billion during their careers, support an additional 6,800 jobs
14 to the midpoint of their careers, and increase state and local tax
15 revenues by \$129 million every year; and

16 WHEREAS, Research further demonstrates that reengaged
17 learners demonstrate higher civic engagement, contribute to the
18 cultural strengths of their communities, and are significantly less
19 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a
20 violent crime; and

21 WHEREAS, There exist dropout recovery high schools in
22 California that provide significant social, economic, and academic
23 benefits to their pupils and to California's population as a whole;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Dropout recovery high schools face significant
26 challenges in reengaging pupils into academic endeavors,
27 including: (1) dropouts who reenter high school often perform
28 significantly below grade level; (2) pupils who drop out display a
29 gradual process of disengagement from school that encompasses
30 years of academic and behavioral difficulties, absenteeism, and
31 stressful life circumstances; (3) reengagement into a high school
32 setting can be difficult and take a significant amount of time; and
33 (4) pupils who have dropped out once are significantly more likely
34 to drop out again; and

35 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd found that one-half of the
36 dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less, one-third
37 of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course after they
38 reenroll, and only 18 percent of returning dropouts graduate; and

1 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools attract
2 and retain high-quality staff committed to meeting the instructional
3 needs of the whole pupil; and

4 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools utilize
5 multiple strategies to overcome these challenges, including
6 state-of-the-art technology, career technical education to reach a
7 variety of learning modalities, accelerated learning pedagogies,
8 competency-based, rather than seat time-based, instruction, and
9 open entry and open exit enrollment; and

10 WHEREAS, Reengaged learners are no longer at risk of failure
11 but at promise of success; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week
14 of June 6 through June 12, 2011, to be Dropout Recovery Week,
15 in honor of the schools and staff who work to reengage pupils who
16 have previously dropped out of school, and in honor of the pupils
17 who have overcome significant personal challenges to reengage
18 in high school and become transformed learners who will continue
19 to pursue education to prepare for college and career in their
20 futures; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support
22 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,
23 alternative assessments, and adequate resources; and be it further

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

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