

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 128

**Introduced by Assembly Members Feuer, Atkins, Dickinson,
Monning, and Wieckowski**

March 13, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 128—Relative to Boy Scouts of America.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 128, as introduced, Feuer. Boy Scouts of America.

This measure would recognize, congratulate, and commend the Boy Scouts of America on its 102nd anniversary, and encourage the Boy Scouts of America to accept for membership and leadership positions qualified boys and men without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or religious belief.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America,
2 millions of Boy Scouts have taken the experience of scouting and
3 gone on to contribute great things to society; and
4 WHEREAS, A Boy Scout can be followed, as he is a leader in
5 his troop and community, regardless of the scout's race, color,
6 religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sexual
7 orientation, or disability; and
8 WHEREAS, The list of former Boy Scouts includes diverse role
9 models and leaders; and
10 WHEREAS, A Boy Scout lives honorably, not only because
11 honor is important to him, but because of the significant example
12 he sets for other scouts; and

1 WHEREAS, Loyalty to his troop and brother scouts makes him
2 “pitch-in” and carry his share of the load, recognizing the devotion
3 to his family and the community in which he lives; and

4 WHEREAS, A Boy Scout’s courage means standing up for what
5 he believes in without compromising his own beliefs; and

6 WHEREAS, A Boy Scout looks forward to each day, seeking
7 his share of the world’s work to do; and

8 WHEREAS, Honor, loyalty, and courage are hallmarks of scouts
9 who admirably represent the community, council, and troop in
10 their daily lives; and

11 WHEREAS, A Boy Scout is helpful in service and will always
12 “be prepared” to put forth his best; and

13 WHEREAS, The character traits represented by Boy Scouts are
14 symbols present in the Boy Scout badge, worn proudly on the
15 uniform, by youth in this state and across the country; and

16 WHEREAS, It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to
17 serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in
18 other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their
19 lifetime in achieving their full potential; and

20 WHEREAS, The values that the Boy Scouts of America strives
21 to instill are found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law; and

22 WHEREAS, Boy Scouts are required to abide by the Scout Law
23 and Scout Oath, which proudly uses such terms as “honor,”
24 “trustworthy,” and “loyal”; and

25 WHEREAS, Many Boy Scouts have been forced to hide their
26 identity in contradiction to the Scout Mission, Law, and Oath, and
27 Boy Scouts and scout leaders who were open about their sexual
28 orientation have been expelled from scouting; and

29 WHEREAS, The policy of the Boy Scouts of America to bar
30 from membership or leadership positions otherwise qualified
31 individuals solely on the basis of their sexual orientation or
32 religious belief causes harm to the innumerable boys and men such
33 as James Dale who, regardless of their hard work and merits, are
34 denied the opportunity to participate in any way in the Boy Scouts
35 of America; and

36 WHEREAS, Many former Boy Scouts have left scouting and
37 formed their own advocacy organization, Scouting for All, in an
38 effort to bring the values of scouting to youth without
39 discrimination; and

1 WHEREAS, The discriminatory policy of the Boy Scouts of
2 America is contrary to the policy of the State of California; and

3 WHEREAS, Other similar organizations such as the Girl Scouts,
4 Camp Fire USA, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America serve
5 as role models for the Boy Scouts of America because they do not
6 discriminate against youth and adults; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature does hereby recognize,
9 congratulate, and commend the Boy Scouts of America on its
10 102nd anniversary; and be it further

11 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the Boy Scouts of
12 America to accept for membership and leadership positions all
13 qualified boys and men, without discriminating on the basis of
14 sexual orientation or religious belief; and be it further

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