

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 55

Introduced by Senator Liu

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Atkins)

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

August 17, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55—Relative to California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 55, as amended, Liu. California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month.

This measure would designate the month of November 2012 as California Runaway and Homeless Youth Month and would recognize the need for individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local

governments, and the state to take action on behalf of runaway and homeless youth in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Runaway and homeless youth are young people
2 between 12 and 24 years of age who have the least access to
3 essential opportunities and supports; and

4 WHEREAS, The prevalence of runaways and homelessness
5 among youth is staggering, with studies nationally suggesting that
6 between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth live on the street for at least
7 one night in a one-year period; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 200,000 youth under 18 years of age,
9 and thousands more who are 18 to 24 years of age, experience
10 homelessness each year in California; and

11 WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of runaway and
12 homeless youth have been expelled from their homes by their
13 families; physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home;
14 discharged from foster care and other state custodial systems
15 without adequate transition plans; separated from their parents by
16 death or divorce; too poor to secure their own basic needs; and
17 ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health
18 resources; and

19 WHEREAS, Runaway and homeless youth who live on the
20 street are victims of physical abuse, sexual exploitation, and crime
21 in untold numbers; and

22 WHEREAS, These youths are on the street because they feel
23 there are no other options open to them; and

24 WHEREAS, Youths who “age out” of the foster care system
25 are at an increased risk of homelessness, and represent an estimated
26 25 to 40 percent of the youth who are currently homeless; and

27 WHEREAS, Providing safe, stable, and permanent housing for
28 runaway and homeless youth is a family, community, state, and
29 national priority; and

30 WHEREAS, The future well-being of our state depends on the
31 value we place on our youth, and, in particular, on our actions to
32 provide the most vulnerable young people in the state with
33 opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities they
34 need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy
35 and productive adults; and

1 WHEREAS, The number of effective programs providing
2 services and support to runaway and homeless youth in California
3 is a fraction of what is needed to fully address the needs of these
4 young people; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Youth has operated
6 the California Youth Crisis Line (1-800-843-5200), 24 hours a
7 day, seven days a week, for over 24 years as the state's only
8 emergency response system for youth in crisis; and

9 WHEREAS, November is National Runaway and Homeless
10 Youth Awareness Month; and

11 WHEREAS, The California Coalition for Youth, along with
12 other community-based organizations, providers, and advocates,
13 is sponsoring the second annual California Runaway and Homeless
14 Youth Month to increase awareness and action on behalf of youth
15 who are at risk or currently living on the street; and

16 WHEREAS, Awareness of the tragedy of youth homelessness
17 and its causes must be heightened to ensure greater support for
18 effective programs aimed at preventing homelessness and helping
19 youth remain off the streets; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the need for
22 individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments,
23 and the state to take action on behalf of runaway and homeless
24 youth in California; and be it further

25 *Resolved,* That the Legislature hereby designates the month of
26 November 2012 as California Runaway and Homeless Youth
27 Month.

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