

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 11, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 105

Introduced by Assembly Member Nestande

February 21, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 105—Relative to the Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 105, as amended, Nestande. Legislature: Wounded Warrior Program.

Existing law authorizes certain internship and fellowship programs, as specified.

~~This measure would establish the Wounded Warrior Program within the Legislature, modeled after the *honor the achievements of the* United States House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior Program, which shall create fellowship opportunities for wounded or disabled veterans to work in the offices of Members of the Assembly, Senators, or committees of the Assembly or Senate. This measure would require the Wounded Warrior Program to be administered by the Joint Rules Committee and funded by the Operating Funds of the Assembly and Senate. Program and would encourage the Assembly Committee on Rules to study the potential of implementing similar programs in the Legislature.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 *WHEREAS, The federal Wounded Warrior Program was*
- 2 *established in 2008 by the United States House of Representatives*
- 3 *to create employment opportunities in the United States House of*

1 *Representatives for wounded or disabled veterans returning from*
2 *military service; and*

3 *WHEREAS, The federal program is intended to serve as an*
4 *example to businesses that wounded or disabled veterans are*
5 *capable of performing great work and being productive employees;*
6 *and*

7 *WHEREAS, The federal program makes available fifty fellowship*
8 *positions around the United States in the district offices of Members*
9 *of the United States House of Representatives; and*

10 *WHEREAS, The two-year federal fellowships provide veterans*
11 *with experience and exposure to broaden their career*
12 *opportunities. Whenever possible, the veterans selected to*
13 *participate in the federal program are given the opportunity to*
14 *transition into full-time employment; and*

15 *WHEREAS, A person is eligible to participate in the federal*
16 *program if he or she served on active duty since September 11,*
17 *2001, has fewer than 20 years of military service, and has received*
18 *either a Memorandum Rating of 30 percent or greater from his or*
19 *her service Physical Evaluation Board or a VA service-connected*
20 *disability rating of 30 percent or greater; and*

21 *WHEREAS, The unemployment rate for disabled veterans is*
22 *markedly higher than the general population; and*

23 *WHEREAS, The Council of Economic Advisors published a*
24 *study in November 2013 indicating that the unemployment rate*
25 *for post-9/11 veterans stands at ten percent and increases to 12.5%*
26 *for those with major disabilities; and*

27 *WHEREAS, The federal program has been a tremendous success*
28 *during the six years that it has been in existence and has opened*
29 *new career paths to many wounded and disabled veterans; now,*
30 *therefore, be it*

31 **RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF**
32 **CALIFORNIA, THE SENATE THEREOF CONCURRING, That**
33 *the Legislature honors the achievements of the federal Wounded*
34 *Warrior Program and encourages the Assembly Committee on*
35 *Rules to study the potential of implementing similar programs in*
36 *the Legislature.*

37 ~~*WHEREAS, The federal Wounded Warrior Program, which is*~~
38 ~~*administered by the Chief Administrative Officer of the United*~~
39 ~~*States House of Representatives, was established to provide*~~

1 employment opportunities for wounded or disabled veterans in the
2 United States House of Representatives.

3 WHEREAS, a person is eligible to apply for a position with the
4 federal program if he or she is a disabled veteran who has served
5 on active duty since September 11, 2001, has fewer than 20 years
6 of military service, and has received either a Memorandum Rating
7 of 30 percent or greater from his or her service Physical Evaluation
8 Board or a VA service-connected disability rating of 30 percent
9 or greater. An applicant for the federal program must also have
10 been honorably discharged and possess a high school diploma or
11 GED certificate.

12 WHEREAS, a wounded or disabled veteran who is selected for
13 the federal program is employed by the Office of the Chief
14 Administrative Officer of the United States House of
15 Representatives for a two-year fellowship and is placed in the
16 office of a Member or committee of the United States House of
17 Representatives.

18 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to establish a Wounded
19 Warrior Program in this state, modeled after the federal program,
20 to provide fellowship opportunities for wounded or disabled
21 veterans to work in the offices of Members of the Assembly,
22 Senators, or committees of the Assembly or Senate.

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
24 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby establishes the
25 Wounded Warrior Program within the Legislature, modeled after
26 the United States House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior
27 Program, which shall create fellowship opportunities for wounded
28 or disabled veterans to work in the office of Members of the
29 Assembly, Senators, or committees of the Assembly or Senate;
30 and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Wounded Warrior Program shall be
32 administered by the Joint Rules Committee and funded by the
33 Operating Funds of the Assembly and Senate; and be it further

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

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