Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 108

Introduced by Assembly Member Wagner

February 21, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 108—Relative to Computer Science Education Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 108, as introduced, Wagner. Education: Computer Science Education Week.

This measure would designate the week of December 8, 2014, as Computer Science Education Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

WHEREAS, The field of computer science plays a critical role in transforming society; and

WHEREAS, Computer technology is an integral part of the culture and is transforming how people interact with each other and the world around them; and

WHEREAS, The field of computer science is transforming industry, creating new fields of commerce, driving innovation in all fields of science, and bolstering productivity in established economic sectors; and

WHEREAS, The field of computer science underpins the information technology sector of our economy, which is a significant contributor to the economic output of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The information technology sector is uniquely positioned to help with economic recovery through research and development of new innovations; and

WHEREAS, With the growing importance of computing in society, the need for pupils to understand the fundamentals of computing and the significant challenges elementary and secondary computer science education faces, broad support for computer science education is needed to catalyze reform; and

WHEREAS, Providing pupils a chance to participate in high-quality computer science activities exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers and provides critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, Computer science education is important in the development of higher order thinking skills of pupils; and

WHEREAS, Elements of computer science courses benefit all pupils, not just those who are studying to become computer programmers; and

WHEREAS, A strong computer science education with basic skills in computational thinking is beneficial to all pupils; and

WHEREAS, All pupils deserve a thorough preparation in computer science education, including access to qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer science at the elementary and secondary levels of education; and

WHEREAS, Computer science education has challenges to address, including distinguishing computer science from technology literacy and providing adequate professional development for computer science teachers; and

WHEREAS, The field of computer science has significant equity barriers to address, including attracting more participation by females and underrepresented minorities to all levels and branches; and

WHEREAS, Advances in computer science depend upon the contribution of all, irrespective of race, gender, or age; and

WHEREAS, Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems, which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science; and

WHEREAS, The goals of Computer Science Education Week are to highlight the crucial role that computer science plays in transforming our society and how computer science enables innovation and creates economic opportunities and to examine making computer science classes a core part of California pupils' education by allowing these classes to count toward the mathematics or science credits necessary to fulfill graduation requirements rather than an elective; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature designates the week of December 8, 2014, as Computer Science Education Week; and be it further

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

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