

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 19, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 104

Introduced by Senator Huff
(Coauthor: Senator Gaines)

April 1, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 104—Relative to Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 104, as amended, Huff. Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the third week of September 2014, and the third week of September in each subsequent year, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Few people know of mitochondrial disease, yet
2 every 30 minutes a child is born who will develop this disease by
3 10 years of age; and
4 WHEREAS, There is no cure for mitochondrial disease; and
5 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is often misdiagnosed; and
6 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease occurs when mitochondria
7 inside of cells, *responsible for creating more than 90 percent of*
8 *the energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth,*
9 fail to carry out their primary functions; and
10 WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, less and less energy is
11 generated within the cell; and
12 WHEREAS, If this process is repeated throughout the body,
13 whole systems begin to fail, and the life of the person in whom
14 this is happening is severely compromised; and

1 WHEREAS, The disease primarily affects children; and

2 WHEREAS, Diseases of the mitochondria appear to cause the
3 most damage to cells of the brain, heart, liver, skeletal muscles,
4 kidneys, and the endocrine and respiratory systems; and

5 WHEREAS, Common symptoms include muscle weakness and
6 pain, gastrointestinal disorders, poor growth, cardiac disease, liver
7 disease, diabetes, respiratory problems, seizures, visual and hearing
8 problems, and susceptibility to infection; and

9 WHEREAS, Because so little is known about the disease, there
10 are only a few hospitals in the world that offer treatment, causing
11 affected families to travel regularly or even relocate to receive
12 treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is progressive, likely
14 terminal, and requires a high level of care and extremely expensive
15 medical treatment that often exceeds covered insurance benefits,
16 creating great financial burdens on affected families; and

17 WHEREAS, The third week of September is observed globally
18 as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim the
21 third week of September 2014, and the third week of each
22 subsequent year, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; and
23 be it further

24 Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
25 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.