

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 14, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

February 4, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 18, as amended, Gordon. Parks Make Life Better! Month.

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health and development of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2015 as “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, A 2009 public opinion research study, conducted
2 by the California Park and Recreation Society, revealed that 98
3 percent of California's households visit a local park and 50 percent
4 of California households participate in an organized recreation
5 program annually; and

6 WHEREAS, California's residents value their local parks and
7 recreation services, as they provide access to the serenity and
8 inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, and places for play and
9 exercise; facilities for directed and self-directed recreation;
10 activities that facilitate social connections, human development,
11 the arts, and lifelong learning; and positive alternatives for youth
12 that help lower crime; and

13 WHEREAS, The Outdoor Industry Association reports that
14 outdoor recreation, both passive and active, generates more than
15 eighty-five billion dollars (\$85,000,000,000) in economic activity
16 in California, supporting nearly 800,000 jobs and representing a
17 business and economic sector that surpasses the aerospace and
18 insurance industries in the state; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2010 California Obesity Prevention Plan states
20 the following:

21 (a) One in every nine California children, one in three teens,
22 and over 50 percent of adults are already overweight or obese, and
23 obesity affects virtually all age, income, educational, ethnic, and
24 disability groups.

25 (b) Research has shown that where people live, work, and play
26 impacts obesity. For example, in Imperial County, 73 percent of
27 adults are overweight or obese, while only 43 percent of San
28 Francisco City and County adults are overweight or obese.

29 (c) California's costs attributable to physical inactivity, obesity,
30 and excess body weight in 2006 were estimated at forty-one billion
31 two hundred million dollars (\$41,200,000,000). In contrast, a
32 5-percent improvement in each of these risk factors could result
33 in an annual savings of nearly two billion four hundred million
34 dollars (\$2,400,000,000).

35 (d) To address obesity, the state must ensure that all California
36 residents have access to safe places to play and be active; and

37 WHEREAS, California's 10 Step Vision for a Healthy California
38 is a call to action to transform the state so that all Californians can
39 enjoy healthy eating and active living, resulting in all of the
40 following:

1 (a) Every day, every child will participate in physical activity.

2 (b) California’s adults will be physically active every day.

3 (c) Neighborhoods, communities, and buildings will support
4 physical activity, including safe walking, stair climbing, and
5 bicycling; and

6 WHEREAS, The Governor, Legislature, and citizens have
7 prioritized efforts to increase physical activity, access to nature,
8 spaces for play and exercise, the arts, lifelong learning, and social
9 connections among children and adults through the approval of
10 statewide park bond programs; and

11 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society promotes
12 the positive personal and community benefits of parks, open space,
13 trails, recreation facilities and programs, nature education, and
14 sports for able and disabled children, teens, adults, and seniors;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Participation in physical activities can lower a
17 citizen’s risk of developing chronic health problems, such as high
18 blood pressure, asthma, heart disease, and diabetes, and also help
19 children grow up to be healthier adults; and

20 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society has
21 released a statewide public awareness campaign, “Parks Make
22 Life Better!” to inform citizens of the many benefits of utilizing
23 parks, facilities, programs, and services; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the importance
26 of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities such as
27 swimming pools, skate parks, dog parks, tennis courts, nature
28 centers, and museums, for the health and development of all
29 Californians; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the month of July 2015
31 as “Parks Make Life Better!” Month; and be it further

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