

House Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Members Dababneh and Calderon

July 15, 2015

House Resolution No. 28—Relative to humane education.

1 WHEREAS, Sections 233.5 (part of the Hate Violence
2 Prevention Act) and 60042 of the Education Code require
3 instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to promote
4 and encourage kindness to pets and humane treatment of animals;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The States of Florida, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey,
7 Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin have adopted
8 humane education laws similar to California's; and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous academic studies have established a
10 correlation between animal cruelty during childhood and
11 interpersonal violence in adulthood; and

12 WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies in major cities such as
13 Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles have acknowledged this
14 correlation and formed special enforcement units to combat animal
15 cruelty; and

16 WHEREAS, Humane education, such as that involving wildlife,
17 the animals' place in the overall environment, and the negative
18 impacts humans can have on them, including death and extinction,
19 can disrupt the cycle of animal and human abuse by decreasing a
20 child's potential to be abusive or neglectful toward animals and,
21 consequently, to promote prosocial behavior toward humans; and

22 WHEREAS, Humane education programs seek to prevent
23 violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all

1 living beings and help children develop into caring, responsible
2 citizens; and

3 WHEREAS, Reputable nonprofit organizations are working to
4 implement humane education programs through in-classroom
5 presentations, teacher training, and the provision of relevant
6 resources, and these organizations could assist California schools
7 in complying with the Education Code’s humane education
8 provisions without burdening school budgets; and

9 WHEREAS, The experiences of these nonprofit organizations,
10 as well as other teachers or organizations that have conducted pilot
11 humane education efforts, provide evidence that student knowledge
12 and positive perceptions of animals is not as commonplace as it
13 should be; and

14 WHEREAS, Deficiencies in children’s understanding of the
15 role animals have in the economy of nature and in people’s lives
16 contribute to a proliferation in the number of wild and domestic
17 animals that are suffering from cruelty, abandonment, high animal
18 shelter euthanasia rates, and, in extreme circumstances, extinction;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts are undertaking steps
21 to rectify these deficiencies by promoting humane education and
22 implementing it in classrooms; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That
24 compliance with Education Code provisions should include
25 educating students on the principles of kindness and respect for
26 animals and observance of laws, regulations, and policies pertaining
27 to the humane treatment of animals, including wildlife and its
28 environment; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That actions such as implementing statewide or
30 districtwide “humane education days” and involving nonprofit
31 organizations in humane education activities with local faculty
32 and school administrators be considered for inclusion in compliance
33 efforts; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Superintendent of Public Instruction be
35 encouraged to ensure the incorporation of humane education in
36 the core curriculum; and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
38 of this resolution to the State Senate, the Superintendent of Public

- 1 Instruction, the State Board of Education, the State Department of
- 2 Education, and the author for appropriate distribution.

O