

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 69

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

May 12, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to Health Care District Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 69, as introduced, Chávez. Health Care District Month.

This measure would recognize the essential role that health care districts have in the State of California and would proclaim the month of May 2015 as Health Care District Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Health care districts are public entities that provide
2 community-based health care services to residents throughout the
3 state; and
4 WHEREAS, Health care districts were created after World War
5 II to address a shortage of access to acute hospital care for many
6 areas of the state, particularly the rural areas of California; and
7 WHEREAS, The first health care district was formed in 1946
8 and the first district hospital opened in 1947. Today, there are 78
9 health care districts in California, and 40 health care districts
10 currently operate 43 district hospitals. Their primary mission has
11 not changed, which is to provide health care services to the
12 communities that created them; and
13 WHEREAS, District hospitals account for 27 of the state's rural
14 hospitals and 20 of the state's critical access hospitals; and

1 WHEREAS, District hospitals provided \$54 million in charity
2 care in 2012, and offered financial support to community programs
3 focused on the health and well-being of the children and adults
4 living in the health care districts; and

5 WHEREAS, Fifty health care districts operate in either a health
6 professional shortage area, a medically underserved area, or a
7 medically underserved population area; and

8 WHEREAS, Health care districts collectively provide a wide
9 range of services, which include acute care, emergency care, skilled
10 nursing and long-term care, community and rural health clinics,
11 ambulance services, adult day care, senior housing and nutritional
12 support, chronic disease management, health education, medical
13 transportation, home health, and hospice; and

14 WHEREAS, Health care districts cover 49,354 square miles,
15 provide services in 40 counties, employ over 32,000 employees,
16 and handle more than 4,000,000 patient visits annually; and

17 WHEREAS, Health care districts are formed by the will of the
18 people, with board members locally elected and accountable to
19 their communities. The health care districts are often supported in
20 part by local tax dollars in order to improve community health;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Health care districts serve as an integral part of
23 the “safety net” for the state’s underinsured and uninsured
24 residents. In 2012, health care districts treated just over one million
25 Medi-Cal beneficiaries, which represents 10 percent of the
26 statewide total of Medi-Cal beneficiaries; and

27 WHEREAS, Each health care district is uniquely focused on
28 the specific needs of the community it serves. Health care districts
29 utilize varying revenue streams, workforce sizes, services offered,
30 and geographic locations to cater to the health services most needed
31 by their communities; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the essential
34 role that health care districts have in the State of California and
35 proclaims the month of May 2015 as Health Care District Month
36 in California; and be it further

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

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