

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 96

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

July 8, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 96—Relative to Dropout Recovery Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as introduced, Weber. Dropout Recovery Month.

This measure would declare the month of August 2015 as Dropout Recovery Month, and would state that the Legislature intends to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative accountability metrics, and adequate resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The 2013 and 2014 Building a Grad Nation reports
2 found that the nation cannot achieve its graduation goals without
3 increasing California's graduation rate for Latino and African
4 American pupils; and
5 WHEREAS, The America's Promise Alliance found, in 2014,
6 that pupils drop out of high school because they are overwhelmed
7 by the effects of toxic living conditions such as homelessness,
8 violent surroundings, abuse or neglect, and catastrophic family
9 health events; and
10 WHEREAS, The California Dropout Research Project found,
11 in 2008, that approximately 20 percent of the variability in dropout
12 rates can be attributed to key characteristics in schools, including
13 the resources, policies, and practices at schoolsites; and

1 WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education
2 concludes that if only one-half of the dropouts from a single year
3 were to earn a diploma, the economic benefits to California would
4 include an additional \$1.4 billion in earnings annually for the
5 reengaged pupils and an annual increase in state and local tax
6 revenues of \$167 million; and

7 WHEREAS, Research further shows that reengaged learners
8 demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement, contribute to the
9 cultural strength of their communities, and are significantly less
10 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a
11 violent crime; and

12 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd demonstrates the challenges
13 faced by schools seeking to reengage dropouts in that one-half of
14 the dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less,
15 one-third of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course
16 after they reenroll, and as few as 18 percent of returning dropouts
17 graduate; and

18 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools in
19 California are operating under Section 47612.1 of the Education
20 Code in partnership with federal Workforce Innovation and
21 Opportunity Act organizations, the California Conservation Corps,
22 and other federal and state career technical education partners to
23 provide significant social, economic, and academic benefits for
24 their pupils and for California's population as a whole; and

25 WHEREAS, Research calls for alternative strategies and
26 accountability metrics for demonstrating the success of dropout
27 recovery programs, including accelerated learning pedagogies,
28 competency-based instruction, inclusion of noncognitive indicators,
29 and alternative graduation rate cohorts; and

30 WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools
31 attract and retain high-quality staff committed to transforming
32 their pupils from being at risk of failure to being at promise of
33 success; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the month
36 of August 2015 as Dropout Recovery Month, in honor of the
37 schools and staff who work to reengage pupils who have previously
38 dropped out of school, and in honor of the pupils who overcome
39 significant personal challenges to reengage in high school and

1 become transformed learners in preparation for college and a future
2 career; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support
4 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,
5 alternative accountability metrics, and adequate resources; and be
6 it further
7 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
8 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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