

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 96

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, 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, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

July 8, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as amended, 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

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

20 WHEREAS, Research further shows that reengaged learners
21 demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement, contribute to the
22 cultural strength of their communities, and are significantly less
23 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a
24 violent crime; and

25 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd demonstrates the challenges
26 faced by schools seeking to reengage dropouts in that one-half of
27 the dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less,
28 one-third of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course
29 after they reenroll, and as few as 18 percent of returning dropouts
30 graduate; and

31 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools in
32 California are operating under Section 47612.1 of the Education
33 Code in partnership with federal Workforce Innovation and
34 Opportunity Act organizations, the California Conservation Corps,
35 and other federal and state career technical education partners to
36 provide significant social, economic, and academic benefits for
37 their pupils and for California's population as a whole; and

38 WHEREAS, Research calls for alternative strategies and
39 accountability metrics for demonstrating the success of dropout
40 recovery programs, including accelerated learning pedagogies,

1 competency-based instruction, inclusion of noncognitive indicators,
2 and alternative graduation rate cohorts; and

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

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the month
9 of August 2015 as Dropout Recovery Month, in honor of the
10 schools and staff who work to reengage pupils who have previously
11 dropped out of school, and in honor of the pupils who overcome
12 significant personal challenges to reengage in high school and
13 become transformed learners in preparation for college and a future
14 career; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support
16 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,
17 alternative accountability metrics, and adequate resources; and be
18 it further

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