

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

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

May 2, 2016

House Resolution No. 51—Relative to Compost Awareness Week.

1 WHEREAS, Composting is an effective form of waste reduction,
2 reuse, and recycling, and since organic materials make up
3 approximately 30 percent of the material going to landfills,
4 composting is becoming one of the primary methods communities
5 use to reach waste diversion goals and create sustainable
6 communities; and
7 WHEREAS, Chapter 719 of the Statutes of 2014 phased out
8 diversion credits for organic alternative daily cover in landfills
9 and Chapter 727 of the Statutes of 2014 statutorily mandated
10 commercial recycling of organics; and

1 WHEREAS, Section 42649.87 of the Public Resources Code
2 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency, in
3 coordination with the Department of Resources Recycling and
4 Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air
5 Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture,
6 to “develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic
7 waste from landfills by promoting the use of agricultural, forestry,
8 and urban organic waste as a feedstock for composting and by
9 promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the
10 state”; and

11 WHEREAS, Materials, including yard trimmings, vegetable
12 cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, have
13 been composted and converted into a beneficial product known as
14 compost; and

15 WHEREAS, Returning organic resources to the soil reduces
16 water consumption by over 30 percent on all soil types, conserves
17 water during extreme drought or flooding conditions, decreases
18 dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and decreases
19 erosion and nonpoint source pollution; and

20 WHEREAS, Composting is recognized by the State Air
21 Resources Board as an important tool to sequester massive amounts
22 of carbon in California’s soils to help immediately reverse global
23 warming; and

24 WHEREAS, Communities, through their local governments,
25 highway departments, soil conservation services, and public works
26 professionals, can have significant impact on clean water, soil,
27 climate change, and landfill diversion by using compost for public
28 works projects; and

29 WHEREAS, International Compost Awareness Week is a
30 multimedia publicity and educational initiative to showcase
31 compost production and demonstrate compost use; and

32 WHEREAS, Composting creates green jobs and infrastructure
33 for cities and states that implement composting programs; and

34 WHEREAS, The United States Composting Council, Canada,
35 and the United Kingdom have declared the first week of May to
36 be the annual International Composting Awareness Week; and

37 WHEREAS, The Association of Compost Producers is the
38 California State Chapter of the United States Composting Council
39 and manages International Composting Awareness Week in
40 California; and

1 WHEREAS, The theme of 2016, “Compost: the Soil and Water
2 Connection,” is a great way to get the message out regarding
3 compost and its many benefits to communities and property
4 owners; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
6 week of May 1, 2016, through May 7, 2016, is hereby designated
7 as Compost Awareness Week; and be it further

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

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