

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 103

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty

August 26, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 103, as introduced, McCarty. Court Adoption and Permanency Month.

This measure would designate November 2015 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month and would encourage the courts and their local communities to join in activities to expedite permanency for children.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Consistent with its commitment to support practices
2 and procedures that promote access to justice and improved case
3 outcomes for California's children and families, the Judicial
4 Council has recognized November as Court Adoption and
5 Permanency Month every year since 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly half a million incidents of child abuse and
7 neglect are reported each year in California, and about 23,400
8 children enter child welfare-supervised foster care for the first
9 time each year; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 62,900 children in California live apart
11 from their families in child welfare-supervised out-of-home care;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Thirty-eight percent of the children in foster care
14 in California have lived apart from their families for two or more
15 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Twenty-four percent of the youth in care are
2 transitional-age youth between 16 and 20 years of age, inclusive;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Of the more than 26,000 California children who
5 left foster care in 2014, approximately 57 percent were reunited
6 with their families, 22 percent were adopted, and 6 percent exited
7 foster care without reunifying or obtaining a permanent home by
8 the time they reached the age of majority; and

9 WHEREAS, Local courts and communities throughout
10 California have created programs promoting permanency that have
11 resulted in a reduction in the number of children waiting to live in
12 safe, stable, and permanent homes; and

13 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council has endeavored to support
14 these programs by creating resources, including children's activity
15 books, orientation videos, and written materials for parents, to
16 encourage parents and children in the dependency process; and

17 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council remains committed to working
18 with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and
19 communities to ensure that every abused or neglected child finds
20 a safe, stable, and permanent home with a loving family as quickly
21 as possible; and

22 WHEREAS, The Assembly and Senate are committed to
23 working together to improve outcomes for children in the child
24 welfare system; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates
27 November 2015 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during
28 which the courts and their local communities are encouraged to
29 join in activities to expedite permanency for children; and be it
30 further

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

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