

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 103

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty

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

August 26, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 103, as amended, 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

1 Council has recognized November as Court Adoption and
2 Permanency Month every year since 1999; and

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

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 62,900 children in California live apart
8 from their families in child welfare-supervised out-of-home care;
9 and

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

13 WHEREAS, Twenty-four percent of the youth in care are
14 transitional-age youth between 16 and 20 years of age, inclusive;
15 and

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

21 WHEREAS, Local courts and communities throughout
22 California have created programs promoting permanency that have
23 resulted in a reduction in the number of children waiting to live in
24 safe, stable, and permanent homes; and

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

29 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council remains committed to working
30 with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and
31 communities to ensure that every abused or neglected child finds
32 a safe, stable, and permanent home with a loving family as quickly
33 as possible; and

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

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates
39 November 2015 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during
40 which the courts and their local communities are encouraged to

- 1 join in activities to expedite permanency for children; and be it
- 2 further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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