

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 131**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Patterson**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chávez, Gordon, and Wilk)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Anderson)**

February 2, 2016

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 131—Relative to professions and vocations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 131, as introduced, Patterson. Professions and vocations: licensing fees: equity.

This measure would encourage the Department of Consumer Affairs and its boards, bureaus, and commissions to create policies that promote fairness and equity to guarantee that each licensee pays a fair amount, especially in regards to initial and ongoing license fees.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Existing law provides for the licensure and  
2 regulation of various professions and vocations by boards, bureaus,  
3 and committees within the Department of Consumer Affairs,  
4 including, among others, accountants, acupuncturists, architects,  
5 athletes, automotive mechanics, barbers and cosmologists,  
6 chiropractors, contractors, court reporters, dental hygienists,  
7 dentists, doctors, engineers, fiduciaries, marriage and family  
8 therapists, nurses, optometrists, osteopathic physicians and  
9 surgeons, pharmacists, physical therapists, physician assistants,  
10 private schools, private guards and other security-related jobs,

1 psychologists, realtors, respiratory care practitioners, speech  
2 pathologists, social workers, and veterinarians; and

3 WHEREAS, The mission of many of the boards, bureaus, and  
4 committees within the Department of Consumer Affairs is to  
5 protect people and promote the health and safety of Californians  
6 by licensing and regulating various professions and vocations; and

7 WHEREAS, Hardworking individuals must often complete  
8 hundreds of hours of professional training requirements, including,  
9 but not limited to, education, schooling, internships, or other  
10 requirements, to meet professional licensing standards in order to  
11 be licensed by the State of California and pursue their profession;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Existing law establishes fees for initial licenses,  
14 initial temporary and permanent licenses, and original licenses for  
15 those various professions and vocations; and

16 WHEREAS, Licensees may spend up to hundreds of dollars for  
17 their initial license and pay thousands of dollars to the State of  
18 California over their career to maintain their license, not including  
19 the thousands of dollars licensees may pay to put themselves  
20 through training or educational programs to gain the skills needed  
21 for a given profession; and

22 WHEREAS, Existing law requires that licenses issued to certain  
23 licensees expire at 12 a.m. on either the last day of the birth month  
24 of the licensee or at 12 a.m. of the legal birth date of the licensee  
25 during the 2nd year of a 2-year term if not renewed, yet fails to  
26 provide licensees the opportunity to prorate their initial licensing  
27 fee to the specific amount of time actually licensed; and

28 WHEREAS, The Governor supports an equitable licensing fee  
29 policy that would prorate license fees based on how many months  
30 have elapsed between the initial issuance of a license and the time  
31 of renewal, as stated in his message upon vetoing Assembly Bill  
32 483 (Patterson, 2015), which was unanimously passed by the  
33 Senate and passed the Assembly with a vote of 78-0; and

34 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the important and  
35 valuable services that those licensees provide to the state; now,  
36 therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the Department  
39 of Consumer Affairs and its boards, bureaus, and commissions to  
40 create policies that promote fairness and equity to guarantee that

- 1 each licensee pays a fair amount, especially in regards to initial
- 2 and ongoing license fees; and be it 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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