

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 175**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Achadjian and Gipson**

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

April 27, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 175—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 175, as amended, Achadjian. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim May 19, 2016, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis
- 2 B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne
- 4 disease in the United States and in California; and

1 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B and C infections  
2 promotes effective management or treatment of these infections,  
3 preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing  
4 people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and

5 WHEREAS, An undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C  
6 infection can lead to disability or death; and

7 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 750,000 Californians  
8 with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected,  
9 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,  
10 or liver failure; and

11 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 350,000 California  
12 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected,  
13 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,  
14 or liver failure; and

15 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C infections are the  
16 leading causes of liver failure requiring liver transplant; and

17 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and  
18 Prevention released updated guidelines calling for baby boomers  
19 – everyone born between 1945 and 1965 – to receive a one-time  
20 hepatitis C test, which would save over 100,000 lives; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States Preventive Services  
22 Task Force (USPSTF) issued a Grade B rating for screening for  
23 hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in persons at high risk for  
24 infection and adults born between 1945 and 1965; and

25 WHEREAS, Baby boomers make up 30 percent of California’s  
26 adult population, and African American baby boomers are twice  
27 as likely to have hepatitis C as other baby boomers; and

28 WHEREAS, In 2009, the USPSTF issued a Grade A rating for  
29 screening pregnant women for the hepatitis B virus (HBV)  
30 infection during their first prenatal visit; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2014, the USPSTF issued a Grade B rating for  
32 screening people born in countries where hepatitis B is common,  
33 United States-born people who were not vaccinated against  
34 hepatitis B when they were babies and whose parents come from  
35 countries where hepatitis B is common, and other people at risk  
36 for hepatitis B; and

37 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis  
38 B – the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of  
39 cancer made available to Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is most prevalent among people of  
2 Asian and Pacific Islander descent, and one-third of Americans of  
3 Asian and Pacific Islander descent live in California; and

4 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B-related and hepatitis C-related  
5 hospitalization charges totaled \$2.3 billion in 2010 in California,  
6 mostly paid for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

7 WHEREAS, New medications can cure hepatitis C in over 90  
8 percent of people who are linked to and retained in care and  
9 treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B can be treated effectively with proper  
11 medical management and may be curable in the near future; and

12 WHEREAS, The Legislature will continue to work to increase  
13 the affordability of, and access to, care, treatment, and cures for  
14 hepatitis; and

15 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and  
16 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate  
17 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral  
18 infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well  
19 as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims May  
22 19, 2016, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day; and be it further

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