

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 204

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

August 25, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204—Relative to adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 204, as introduced, Quirk. Court Adoption and Permanency Month.

This measure would designate November 2016 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, Half a million incidents of child abuse and neglect
7 are reported each year in California, and about 25,200 children
8 enter child welfare-supervised foster care for the first time; and
9 WHEREAS, Nearly 61,900 children in California live apart
10 from their families in child welfare: supervised out-of-home care;
11 and
12 WHEREAS, Thirty-eight percent of the children in foster care
13 in California have lived apart from their families for two or more
14 years; and

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

3 WHEREAS, Of the more than 29,600 California children who
4 left foster care in the 12 months preceding May 2016, 52 percent
5 were reunited with their families, 21 percent were adopted, and 7
6 percent exited foster care without reunifying or obtaining a
7 permanent home by the time they reached the age of majority; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council remains committed to working
13 with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and
14 communities to ensure that every abused or neglected child finds
15 a safe, stable, and permanent home with a loving family as quickly
16 as possible; and

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

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates
22 November 2016 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during
23 which the courts and their local communities are encouraged to
24 join in activities to expedite permanency for children; and be it
25 further

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