

**Introduced by Senator Fuller**

**(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Glazer, Hall, Hertzberg, Jackson, Leno, Monning, and Nielsen)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Mathis, Olsen, and Rodriguez)

February 18, 2016

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 112—Relative to Arts Education Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 112, as introduced, Fuller. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2016 to be Arts Education Month and would encourage all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,  
2 theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic  
3 education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades  
4 1 to 12, inclusive; and

5 WHEREAS, The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational  
6 policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and  
7 lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all  
8 children for success after high school regardless of gender, age,  
9 economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and

10 WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual  
11 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of  
12 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement  
13 learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to  
14 offer; and

1 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of  
2 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,  
3 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social  
4 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace  
5 and lifelong learning; and

6 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils  
7 in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the  
8 Education Code, which provide, in part, “[t]he adopted course of  
9 study ... shall include instruction ... in ... [v]isual and performing  
10 arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre,  
11 and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation  
12 and the skills of creative expression”; and

13 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality  
14 education, and the University of California and the California State  
15 University have instituted a policy that includes visual and  
16 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school  
17 pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout the last 10 years, arts education  
20 programs have enjoyed significant investments by the State of  
21 California and continue to see support by the Legislature; and

22 WHEREAS, It is the intent that this funding help implement a  
23 comprehensive vision for arts education at the local level, to ensure  
24 that every pupil in California benefits from this investment; and

25 WHEREAS, This funding is the first step in investing in quality  
26 visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils; and

27 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education  
28 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving  
29 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of  
30 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to  
31 give recognition to the state’s outstanding young artists, and to  
32 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;  
33 now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of  
36 March 2016 as Arts Education Month and encourages all elected  
37 officials to participate with their educational communities in  
38 celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and programs for  
39 pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and  
40 understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all

- 1 residents to become interested in and give full support to quality
- 2 school arts programs for children and youth; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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