

**Introduced by Senator Berryhill**

**(Principal coauthor: Senator Nielsen)**

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(Coauthors: Assembly Members Gordon, Hadley, Kim, Mathis, and  
Olsen)

June 20, 2016

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 156—Relative to the California  
Conservation Corps.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 156, as introduced, Berryhill. California Conservation Corps:  
40th Anniversary.

This measure would recognize the contributions of the California  
Conservation Corps on the 40th anniversary of its creation.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The California Conservation Corps (CCC) was  
2 created through legislation signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown  
3 Jr. on July 7, 1976, and has grown over 40 years from small  
4 beginnings to the oldest and largest state conservation corps  
5 program in the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, In the six years after its inception, the CCC opened  
7 21 centers, coined the motto “hard work, low pay, and miserable  
8 conditions,” and garnered national and international attention for  
9 its work; and

10 WHEREAS, With the elimination of its “sunset clause” in 1983,  
11 the CCC became a permanent state department and then

1 consolidated various centers, added several dozen nonresidential  
2 satellite facilities, and created the California Conservation Corps  
3 Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1992 the focus of the corps' director was to  
5 make the CCC "bigger and better" through an entrepreneurial  
6 approach and to promote corpsmember development through  
7 education, emergency response, and conservation work; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the CCC has established  
9 more than two dozen centers and sites throughout the state, in  
10 urban, rural, and suburban locations, has hired approximately 3,000  
11 people each year from all over the state to reflect the diversity of  
12 California, and is now the only state program with year-round  
13 residential centers; and

14 WHEREAS, As a cost-effective labor force working for more  
15 than 250 local, state, and federal agencies, with crews tackling  
16 more than 900 projects annually, the CCC has generated more than  
17 \$26,000,000; and

18 WHEREAS, The CCC has contributed 69 million hours to  
19 natural resource work throughout the state by providing more than  
20 9.6 million hours of emergency response on nearly every major  
21 California natural disaster since 1976, installing water-saving  
22 devices and water-efficient irrigation systems, removing turf in  
23 favor of drought-tolerant plants, and devoting more than 500,000  
24 hours to fighting wildfires in 2015 alone; and

25 WHEREAS, Since the program began, the CCC has also planted  
26 more than 21 million trees throughout the state, built or maintained  
27 more than 10,840 miles of backcountry trails in California parks  
28 and forests, and completed more than 1.6 million hours of fish  
29 habitat improvement work and more than 11 million hours of work  
30 improving rural and urban parks and recreation areas; and

31 WHEREAS, In addition to natural resource work, the CCC has  
32 focused on advancing education and fostering a service ethic and  
33 has had more than 4,000 corpsmembers work to complete their  
34 high school diplomas in the last three years with several hundred  
35 young people earning scholarships to advance their education.  
36 Corpsmembers provided more than 74,000 community volunteer  
37 hours in 2015 alone; and

38 WHEREAS, The CCC has been honored with numerous awards,  
39 including the United Nations Environmental Programme Medal  
40 for leadership in engaging youth in environmental projects and

1 the Times-Mirror Chevron Conservation Award for exceptional  
2 service to the cause of conservation, and has been recognized by  
3 Tom Brokaw of NBC Nightly News as the “best and  
4 longest-running program of its kind in the country”; and

5 WHEREAS, The CCC has significantly impacted corpsmember  
6 lives, and will continue to improve California’s natural resources  
7 and recreational opportunities for many years to come; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
10 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the  
11 contributions of the California Conservation Corps on the 40th  
12 anniversary of its creation, and all of its former and current  
13 corpsmembers, and supports the continued and steadfast efforts  
14 of current corpsmembers in the protection and restoration of  
15 California’s environment and responding to disasters; and be it  
16 further

17 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
18 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.