

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 18, 1995

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 1995

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 1995

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 19

**Introduced by Senators Russell, Haynes, Kopp, and
Monteith**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baldwin, Boland,
Bordonaro, Conroy, House, Morrissey, and Morrow)

February 21, 1995

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19—Relative to family values and the entertainment industry.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 19, as amended, Russell. Family values: entertainment industry.

This measure would encourage the entertainment industry to ~~eliminate violence, profanity, and sexually explicit acts or sexually explicit references or innuendoes from daytime and prime-time programming, and to promote programs that reflect family values and teach civic responsibility~~ *take positive steps to reverse the current trends of sexual promiscuity and violence in entertainment programs*, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The motion picture industry and
2 television programs play an important role in shaping the
3 lives, opinions, and values of our young people; ~~and~~

1 WHEREAS, According to the Nielsen ratings, the
2 average child in the United States spends more time
3 watching television than performing any other activity,
4 except sleeping; and

5 WHEREAS, A 22-year study conducted by Dr. Leonard
6 Eron, a professor of psychology and research scientist at
7 the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, found that
8 “television violence affects youngsters of all ages, of both
9 genders, at all socioeconomic levels and all levels of
10 intelligence, and the effect is not limited to children who
11 are already disposed to being aggressive”; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the American Academy of
13 Pediatrics, television viewing can cause violent and
14 aggressive behavior in children; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health
16 has funded hundreds of independent studies that clearly
17 demonstrate that exposure to televised violence increases
18 aggressive behavior in children; and

19 WHEREAS, The average adolescent has witnessed
20 200,000 acts of violence, including 33,000 murders, on
21 television by the time he or she reaches high school; and

22 WHEREAS, Cable television allows access to programs
23 designed especially for teens, including MTV, which
24 presents images of brutal violence; and

25 WHEREAS, Recent statistics show that young children
26 are increasingly involved in more serious crimes,
27 including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, In 1992, teenagers constituted 16 percent
30 of all arrests for violent crimes, including one-third of all
31 arrests for robberies, about 15 percent of all arrests for
32 murders, rapes, and assaults, and one-half of all arrests for
33 arson and motor theft; and

34 WHEREAS, The National Education Goals Report
35 found that, in 1992, 9 percent of 8th graders, 10 percent
36 of 10th graders, and 6 percent of 12th graders reported
37 they had brought a weapon to school at least once during
38 the previous month; and

39 WHEREAS, A 1993 Louis Harris poll found that 11
40 percent of school children had been shot at by a gun in the



1 ~~past year, and 39 percent knew someone personally who~~
2 ~~had either been killed or injured from gunfire; and~~

3 ~~WHEREAS, A United States Justice Department~~
4 ~~report found that one in five suburban high school boys~~
5 ~~owns a gun, and that 45 percent of these boys have been~~
6 ~~threatened with a gun or shot at on the way to or from~~
7 ~~school during the previous few years; and~~

8 ~~WHEREAS, A Gallup poll shows that 83 percent of~~
9 ~~American adults 18 years of age and older believe~~
10 ~~television violence contributes to violent behavior among~~
11 ~~children under 18 years of age; and~~

12 ~~WHEREAS, A Gallup poll shows that 68 percent of~~
13 ~~American adults 18 years of age and older also believe that~~
14 ~~the sexual content of television programs contributes to~~
15 ~~sexual activity among children under the age of 18; and~~

16 ~~WHEREAS, One million teens become pregnant each~~
17 ~~year and 69 percent of those births are out of wedlock; and~~

18 ~~WHEREAS, One in four sexually active teens contracts~~
19 ~~at least one sexually transmitted disease; and~~

20 ~~WHEREAS, The number of AIDS cases reported~~
21 ~~annually among United States adolescents was just 159 in~~
22 ~~1992, but rocketed to 1,412 in 1993, making teens a very~~
23 ~~high risk group; and~~

24 ~~WHEREAS, The average age at which teens are~~
25 ~~initiating sex is younger now than it was a generation ago,~~
26 ~~with the average age of first intercourse being 15.7 years~~
27 ~~for males and 16.2 years for females; and~~

28 ~~WHEREAS, The entertainment industry may be~~
29 ~~contributing to the problems of early sexual involvement~~
30 ~~by featuring and promoting an endless variety of~~
31 ~~bedroom scenes and themes of sexually liberated~~
32 ~~teenagers; and~~

33 ~~WHEREAS, In one year the average teenager sees an~~
34 ~~estimated 14,000 sexual acts, references, or innuendos on~~
35 ~~television; and~~

36 ~~WHEREAS, Daytime talk shows bombard the home~~
37 ~~with topics that include bestiality, transvestites, wife~~
38 ~~swapping, sex slaves, sodomy, incest, and adultery; and~~

39 ~~WHEREAS, A Michigan State University study,~~
40 ~~commissioned by the Kaiser Family Foundation, found an~~



1 average of 6.6 sexual incidents per hour-long episode of
2 five popular soap operas examined in August and
3 September of 1994 (“Days of Our Lives” led the list with
4 11.4 incidents per hour of sexual activity); and

5 WHEREAS, Psychology Today reported that 50
6 percent of the babies conceived on soap operas are
7 conceived either before marriage or with someone other
8 than the mother’s husband; and

9 WHEREAS, These television role models send the
10 wrong messages to youths by grossly inflating the sexual
11 promiscuity of real life American adults, as proved by a
12 new study by the University of Chicago, entitled “The
13 Social Organization of Sexuality,” which reveals that
14 American adults are largely monogamous, with nearly 83
15 percent having had one or zero sexual partners a year;
16 and nearly 75 percent of married men and 85 percent of
17 married women remaining faithful to their partners; and

18 WHEREAS, A generation of children have been
19 desensitized to violence, killing, promiscuous sex, and
20 profanity; and

21 WHEREAS, American society as a whole would benefit
22 from motion picture films and television programs that
23 promote marriage, two-parent families, moral and civic
24 responsibility, law and order, and nonviolent resolution of
25 conflicts; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
27 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the ~~President of the~~
28 ~~Motion Picture Association of America and the President~~
29 ~~of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television~~
30 ~~Producers, the chairmen or presidents of the major~~
31 ~~television networks known as ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX,~~
32 ~~the presidents and chairpersons of the cable television~~
33 ~~networks, including CNN, MTV, and the local Hispanic~~
34 ~~stations, and the chairman of the Federal~~
35 ~~Communications Commission, are hereby requested to~~
36 ~~stations, are hereby requested to~~ accept some of the
37 responsibility for taking positive steps to reverse the
38 current trends of sexual promiscuity and violence by
39 ~~doing the following:~~



1 ~~(a) Eliminate programming that gives an inflated and~~
2 ~~inaccurate view of sexual promiscuity among American~~
3 ~~adults;~~

4 ~~(b) Promote programs that reflect family values,~~
5 ~~moral values (including those that reflect the true sexual~~
6 ~~mores of American society as proved by the recent study~~
7 ~~by the University of Chicago, “The Social Organization of~~
8 ~~Sexuality”) and teach civic responsibility;~~

9 ~~(c) Develop programs that discourage activities which~~
10 ~~can cause out-of-wedlock pregnancy, AIDS, and other~~
11 ~~sexually transmitted diseases;~~

12 ~~(d) Eliminate violence, profanity, and sexually explicit~~
13 ~~acts, or sexual references or innuendoes from daytime~~
14 ~~and prime-time programming; and be it further *adopting*~~
15 ~~*programming that assists with these goals; and be it*~~
16 ~~*further*~~

17 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
18 copies of this resolution to the ~~President of the~~ Motion
19 Picture Association of America and the ~~President of the~~
20 Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the
21 ~~chairpersons or presidents of the~~ major television
22 networks known as ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX, the
23 ~~chairpersons or presidents of the~~ various cable television
24 networks, including CNN, MTV, and the local Hispanic
25 stations, ~~and the chairman of the Federal~~
26 ~~Communications Commission.~~ *stations.*

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