

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 131**

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Adopted in Assembly April 20, 1998

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Adopted in Senate April 23, 1998

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This resolution was received by the Secretary of  
State this\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1998,  
at \_\_\_o'clock \_\_M.

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*Deputy Secretary of State*

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## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 131—Relative to Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 131, Baca. Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

This measure would declare April 1998 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is a neurological disorder characterized by tics, which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or vocalizations that occur repeatedly in the same way; and

WHEREAS, The symptoms include (1) both multiple motor and one or more vocal tics present at some time during the illness although not necessarily simultaneously, (2) the occurrence of tics many times a day, usually in bouts nearly every day or intermittently throughout a span of more than one year, (3) periodic changes in the number, frequency, type, and location of the tics, and in the waxing and waning of their severity, (4) symptoms that sometimes disappear for weeks or months at a time, and (5) onset before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, There are two categories of tics: motor and vocal. Both of these are then subdivided into simple and complex; and

WHEREAS, Simple motor tics include eye blinking, head jerking, shoulder shrugging, and facial grimacing, and simple vocal tics include throat clearing, yelping and other noises, sniffing, and tongue clicking; and

WHEREAS, Complex motor tics include jumping, touching other people or things, smelling, twirling about, and only rarely self-injurious actions including hitting or biting oneself, and complex vocal tics include uttering words or phrases out of context and coprolalia, which is vocalizing socially unacceptable words; and



WHEREAS, The range of tics is very broad. Some symptoms are often so complex that family members, friends, teachers, and employers may find it hard to believe that the movements and vocalizations are involuntary; and

WHEREAS, It is important to receive a Tourette Syndrome diagnosis early in life, especially in those instances when the symptoms are viewed by some people as bizarre, disruptive, and frightening. Sometimes Tourette Syndrome symptoms provoke ridicule and rejection by peers, neighbors, teachers, and even casual observers. Parents may be overwhelmed by the strangeness of their child's behavior. The child may be threatened, excluded from activities and prevented from enjoying normal interpersonal relationships. These difficulties may become greater during adolescence, an especially trying period for young people and even more so for a person coping with a neurological problem; and

WHEREAS, To avoid psychological harm, early diagnosis and treatment are crucial. Moreover, in more serious cases, it is possible to control the symptoms with medication; and

WHEREAS, Many people experience marked improvement in their late teens or early twenties. Most people with Tourette Syndrome get better, not worse, as they mature, and those diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome have a normal life span. As many as  $\frac{1}{3}$  of patients experience remission of tic symptoms in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, Since many people with Tourette Syndrome have yet to be diagnosed, there are no absolute figures as to how many people suffer from Tourette Syndrome in the United States. The official estimate by the National Institutes of Health is that 100,000 Americans have fully developed Tourette Syndrome. Some genetic studies suggest that the figure may be as high as one in two hundred if those with chronic multiple tics or transient childhood tics are included in the count; now, therefore be it



*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature does hereby proclaim April 1998 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.



Attest:

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*Secretary of State*

