

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 98

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 168

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 98—Relative to state employee merit awards.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 15, 1998.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 98, Hurtt. State employee merit awards.

This measure would request that additional merit award payments, authorized by the Department of Personnel Administration, be made to specified individuals whose proposals have resulted in annual savings and net revenue gain to the state.

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to Ruth Caouette and Dan R. Cope, Consumer Affairs, for a proposal resulting in annual savings of \$62,050, recommending wall certificates be made available to registered nurses during the years 1972 through 1989. In order to lower the cost of implementing new service or contacting all nurses through a newsletter, the service of providing wall certificates to nurses is offered at the time of license renewal. License renewals are sent to nurses every two years, approximately three months prior to their expiration dates. Registered nurses are increasingly working in independent settings in which it is desirable to display a wall certificate; and

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to Cheryl A. Martin, Employment Development Department, for a proposal resulting in annual savings of \$52,736, recommending adopting a newly designed form "Recomputation/Wage Document Request" for use on electronic mail (e-mail), requesting wage documents from Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance offices. This e-mail form eliminates expensive long-distance telephone calls and provides three to four times more documents or cases; and

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to Larry V. Herrback, California State Lottery, for a proposal resulting in annual savings of \$116,519, recommending a "new base" for the Lottery Playcenters to accommodate handicapped players. This new base has a writing surface of 18 inches to 24 inches from the ground and enables a wheelchair-bound individual to fill out a playslip; and

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to Willard D. Brisley, Department of Transportation, for a proposal resulting in total net savings of \$79,400, recommending reducing the Caltrans/consultant developed size plan sheets by 50 percent for the plans specifications and estimates and public agency reviews during

a designed phase on projects. Over 784 projects and 20,200 total plan sheets were processed in 1991–92, and reducing the size will provide substantial benefits; and

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to James V. Miller, Department of Transportation, for a proposal resulting in annual savings of \$250,000, recommending adopting the “K-Rail adaption” (connecting the rail, type K (K-Rail)) to the existing metal beam guardrail and eliminating the need for temporary crash cushions in construction zones. Normally the crash cushions protect the exposed end of the K-Rail and absorb the energy when impacted by an errant vehicle. An average temporary sand-filled crash cushion array is made up of 12 barrels and costs about \$3,000 each. This new K-Rail adaption replaces the current practice and the need for maintenance or repair, and provides substantial savings; and

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to Harry J. Weekley, Jr., Department of Water Resources, for a proposal resulting in annual savings of \$90,482, recommending adopting a designed and fabricated power nozzle removal/transfer cart at the William E. Warne Powerplant. This powerplant is part of the West Branch State Aqueduct, which carries water to Los Angeles and other coastal cities. The plants’ two turbines generate about 78 megawatts of electricity. Water enters the Warne Powerplant through the two Pelton wheel turbines with six nozzles each. These nozzles are eight feet long, 42 inches in diameter, and weigh 15,000 pounds. In the design of the plant there was no provision for removing the nozzles from the wheel turbines for refurbishing. It would take a five-person crew approximately 240 personnel hours to remove and reinstall one nozzle. Using Mr. Weekley’s transfer cart takes a three-person crew six hours per nozzle, thus saving 2,340 hours and eliminating serious injury to crew members. This idea made a tremendous impact on reducing the time refurbishing the nozzles and improving safety and operations of the State Water Project; and

WHEREAS, An award of \$5,000 has already been made to David W. Leask and Robert A. Miller, Department of Water Resources, for a proposal resulting in annual savings of \$88,456, recommending a designed, noncontact measuring tool that uses one wire, with custom built electronic equipment, for checking alignment of vertical pumps and generators at pumping plants. This bracket assembly, installed on a pumping shaft, provides direct meter readings within 15 minutes and in ten-thousandths of an inch. Normally a standard method to check alignment is to use four plumb wires with weights suspended and two technicians conducting 60 or more operational testing hours to accomplish an accurate reading. Over a four-year period, this tool was used 28 times on 48 units. These meter readings display travel to or away from the shaft and eliminate 40 man-hours per alignment check; and



WHEREAS, These employees' proposals have resulted in actual savings of \$739,643; and

WHEREAS, As a result of these savings and increased revenue, it is unnecessary to appropriate additional funds for payment of awards to these employees; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares that the following additional awards, authorized by the Department of Personnel Administration, be made to the following named employees:

Ruth Caouette	\$	603
Dan R. Cope	\$	603
Cheryl A. Martin	\$	274
Larry V. Herrback	\$	826
Willard D. Brisley	\$	2,940
James V. Miller	\$	21,000
Harry J. Weekley, Jr.	\$	460
David W. Leask	\$	258
Robert A. Miller	\$	258; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Controller and the Department of Personnel Administration.

