

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Blakeslee

**(~~Coauthor: Assembly Member Ma~~ Coauthors: Assembly Members
Block, Gilmore, Jeffries, Ma, Monning, Nestande, Niello, and
Price)**

**(~~Coauthor: Senator Maldonado~~ Coauthors: Senators Cox, DeSaulnier,
and Maldonado)**

February 25, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Relative to Viral Hepatitis
Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 35, as amended, Blakeslee. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

This measure would declare May 19, 2009, to be Viral Hepatitis
Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Over 520 million people worldwide are chronically
2 infected with viral hepatitis, ~~and of hepatitis. Of~~ those, over 5
3 million people in the United States are infected with hepatitis C
4 and 1.5 million with hepatitis B; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention estimate that approximately 30,000 new cases of
7 hepatitis C infection and 60,000 new cases of hepatitis B infection
8 occur annually in the United States, with 15,000 Americans dying
9 of viral hepatitis each year; and

1 WHEREAS, Hepatitis can lead to liver disease, cirrhosis, liver
2 cancer, and liver failure. Liver cancer from hepatitis B and C kills
3 more people in California than anywhere else in the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Persons infected with the hepatitis virus are often
5 unaware of their status for as long as 10 to 20 years and are
6 unknowingly vectors for continued spread of the virus; and

7 *WHEREAS, A study published in the January 6, 2009, issue of*
8 *the journal Annals of Internal Medicine concluded that health care*
9 *personnel in settings outside hospitals failed to follow basic*
10 *infection control practices and exposed more than 60,000 patients*
11 *in the United States to hepatitis B and C; and*

12 WHEREAS, Although prevention of viral hepatitis ~~B and C~~ is
13 possible, and some treatments are available, many persons at risk
14 or affected by these conditions are neither tested nor treated due
15 to lack of knowledge or access to care; and

16 WHEREAS, ~~Therapies~~ *Hepatitis A and B can be prevented with*
17 *vaccinations and therapies* for hepatitis C have improved so that
18 40 percent to 80 percent of treated patients attain sustained viral
19 elimination, ~~and hepatitis B can be prevented with vaccinations;~~
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The cost of prevention can be as low as \$60 for
22 vaccination for hepatitis B and even less for educational efforts to
23 prevent all types of viral hepatitis, as opposed to a cost of \$750,000
24 for liver transplantation *plus an additional \$70,000 per year to*
25 *prevent organ rejection; and*

26 WHEREAS, Estimates of the annual costs of hepatitis A in the
27 United States have ranged from \$300 million to \$488.8 million in
28 1997 dollars. A recent analysis estimated economic costs of \$133.5
29 million during the lifetime of a single age group of children; *and*

30 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and
31 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate
32 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral
33 infection to individuals and to our community, financially as well
34 as physically and emotionally; and

35 ~~WHEREAS, A study published in the January 6, 2009, issue of~~
36 ~~the journal Annals of Internal Medicine concluded that health care~~
37 ~~personnel in settings outside hospitals failed to follow basic~~
38 ~~infection control practices and exposed more than 60,000 patients~~
39 ~~in the United States to hepatitis B and C.~~

1 WHEREAS, May 19, 2009, will be the fifth annual World
2 Hepatitis Awareness Day, a global day of awareness sponsored
3 by the World Hepatitis Alliance. The theme, “Am I Number 12?”
4 highlights the fact that one in 12 people, globally, suffer from
5 hepatitis and what individual governments can do to prevent this;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
9 declares May 19, 2009, to be Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in
10 California; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
12 sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for distribution.