

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Blakeslee

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Gilmore, Jeffries, Ma, Monning, Nestande, Niello, and Price Price, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blumenfeld, Brownley, Caballero, Carter, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jones, Knight, Krekorian, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mendoza, Miller, Nava, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)

(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. Of those, over 5 million people in the
3 United States are infected with hepatitis C and 1.5 million with
4 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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Although prevention of viral hepatitis is possible,
22 and some treatments are available, many persons at risk or affected
23 by these conditions are neither tested nor treated due to lack of
24 knowledge or access to care; and

25 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A and B can be prevented with
26 vaccinations and therapies for hepatitis C have improved so that
27 40 percent to 80 percent of treated patients attain sustained viral
28 elimination; and

29 WHEREAS, The cost of prevention can be as low as \$60 for
30 vaccination for hepatitis B and even less for educational efforts to
31 prevent all types of viral hepatitis, as opposed to a cost of \$750,000
32 for liver transplantation plus an additional \$70,000 per year to
33 prevent organ rejection; and

34 WHEREAS, Estimates of the annual costs of hepatitis A in the
35 United States have ranged from \$300 million to \$488.8 million in
36 1997 dollars. A recent analysis estimated economic costs of \$133.5
37 million during the lifetime of a single age group of children; and

38 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and
39 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate
40 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral

1 infection to individuals and to our community, financially as well
2 as physically and emotionally; and

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

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

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