AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 38

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

February 26, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to Financial Aid and Literacy Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 38, as amended, Duvall. Financial Aid and Literacy Month.

This measure would declare April 2009 as Financial Aid and Literacy Month to raise public awareness about the need for increased financial literacy.

Fiscal committee: no.

WHEREAS, Californians' total personal income is 60 percent higher than the next closest state and accounts for 13 percent of all personal income in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Thirteen percent of Californians live below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, credit card delinquencies nationwide jumped 26 percent from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, Average credit debt among low- and medium-income households is $8,650; and

WHEREAS, Average credit card debt among indebted young adults between 25 and 34 years of age increased by 55 percent from 1992 to 2001, inclusive, to $4,088, and average credit card debt among persons between 18 and 24 years of age increased by 104 percent; and

WHEREAS, The share of families with any type of debt climbed to 77 percent during the period of 2004 through 2007, and the largest increase was for families headed by persons 75 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, Over a third of young adults own credit cards, and young people receive little in the way of financial education; and

WHEREAS, Current mortgage disclosures frequently fail to convey key information to consumers, often are misunderstood, and may contribute to information problems in the mortgage market; and

WHEREAS, A large majority of workers who have not put money aside for retirement have little in savings at all, and seven in 10 of these workers say their assets total less than $10,000; and

WHEREAS, The median amount in retirement accounts is $2,000; and

WHEREAS, The savings rate for American consumers has risen to over 3 percent; and

WHEREAS, Only 41 percent of workers indicate they or their spouses currently have a defined benefit pension plan, yet 59 percent say they are expecting to receive income from such a plan during retirement; and

WHEREAS, Total United States consumer debt, which includes installment debt, but not mortgage debt, reached $2.6 trillion in December 2008, up from $2.551 trillion at the end of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-eight percent of retirees regret how they spent their money before retiring, and 97 percent of baby boomers share this regret and are uncomfortable with how much they have accumulated during their preretirement years; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has proclaimed April 2009 as "Financial Aid and Literacy Month"; and

WHEREAS, High school seniors taking part in a national survey of financial knowledge scored an average of 48.3 percent, a failing grade; and

WHEREAS, Only seven states require high school pupils to take a personal finance course to graduate, and only nine states require high school pupils to pass a test on personal finance to graduate; and

WHEREAS, As pupils progress through school, credit card usage swells. Ninety-one percent of final-year college students have a credit card compared to 42 percent of freshmen. Fifty-six percent of final-year students carry four or more cards, and 74 percent of undergraduates use credit cards for school supplies; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the financial literacy of all economic and ethnic groups is documented to improve attitudes, lead to improved decisionmaking, and provide for a more secure future for the individuals and their families who have been educated in these issues; and

WHEREAS, The percentage of workers who are very confident about having sufficient financial resources for a comfortable retirement fell from 27 percent in 2007 to 18 percent in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of college students carried credit cards in 2007, up from 67 percent in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Financial literacy training may easily be integrated as a valuable component for elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, libraries, community groups, and citizen town hall meetings; and

WHEREAS, Many groups are dedicated to increasing the financial literacy of Americans and a broad range of quality personal finance materials and curricula have been created for this purpose, but audiences to which this information is vital are not being reached; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby declares April 2009 as Financial Aid and Literacy Month to raise public awareness about the need for increased financial literacy; and be it further

Resolved, That legislators, employers, schools, service groups, community organizations, libraries, financial institutions, and the media be encouraged to provide opportunities for financial literacy education for all Californians through a variety of means and to collaborate with members of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, the California Jump$tart Coalition, and others as they provide outreach and education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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