

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 50

Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner

March 11, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to the 2009 State Scientist Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 50, as introduced, Skinner. The 2009 State Scientist Day.

This measure would proclaim May 20, 2009, as the 21st Annual State Scientist Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of California employs nearly 3,000
2 professional scientists in over 30 state departments working in
3 more than 230 scientific classifications; and
4 WHEREAS, State scientists hold graduate degrees in virtually
5 every scientific discipline, including nematology, virology,
6 seismology, epidemiology, toxicology, and many others; and
7 WHEREAS, State scientists are represented by the California
8 Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), which is dedicated
9 to professionalism, independence, responsible advocacy, and
10 ensuring that state scientists receive fair pay and benefits for their
11 important work; and
12 WHEREAS, The work of state scientists protects the public
13 from life-threatening diseases, safeguards our wildlife and abundant
14 natural resources, and protects our air and water from toxic waste
15 and pollution; and

1 WHEREAS, State scientists are required to make critical
2 decisions every day based on rigorous scientific factfinding and
3 these decisions ultimately impact the lives and property of all
4 Californians; and

5 WHEREAS, The Governor wrote in October 2007 that “I value
6 the dedication and work of the State’s scientists, and I am
7 concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind those
8 of comparable workers” and that he wants to ensure “that the State
9 is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable
10 compensation for the scientists”; and

11 WHEREAS, If California loses its scientific expertise, the state
12 will go unarmed in the battles against greenhouse gas emissions,
13 air pollution, and the overall protection of childrens’ health,
14 according to a 2006 California Environmental Protection Agency
15 report; and

16 WHEREAS, State scientists perform important work in the areas
17 of infectious disease prevention, oil spill prevention and cleanup,
18 public health drinking water monitoring, the protection of
19 agricultural crops, brownfields mitigation, chemical and
20 radiological disaster response, and much more; and

21 WHEREAS, State scientists host an annual State Scientist Day
22 at the State Capitol to increase public awareness and recognition
23 of the significant contributions made by scientists working in state
24 government while entertaining and educating over 2,000
25 elementary school students with fun, hands-on science exhibits,
26 including digging for hidden artifacts, viewing live fish in a
27 1,500-gallon tank, and playing Pollution Prevention “Wheel of
28 Fortune” and Coastal Creature “Jeopardy”; and

29 WHEREAS, State Scientist Day has sparked an interest in
30 science for thousands of California school children, legislators,
31 state employees, and the public who attend the special event; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That May 20, 2009, shall be recognized as the
35 21st Annual State Scientist Day, and that this day shall be a tribute
36 to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who
37 work on behalf of all Californians; and be it further

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

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