

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 16, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 45

Introduced by Assembly Member Fong

June 29, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 45—Relative to Lifelong Learning Accounts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 45, as amended, Fong. Lifelong Learning Accounts.

This measure would urge the federal government to create and fund programs that encourage lifelong learning, such as Lifelong Learning Accounts, within California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California has a lower percentage of young adults,
2 ages 25 to 34, who have completed high school or who have earned
3 a college degree than the national average; and

4 WHEREAS, 66 percent of California's working adults, ages 18
5 to 64, over 15 million adults, are without an associate's degree,
6 college degree or a higher degree; and

7 WHEREAS, Working-age adults *with a college education* in
8 California are 27 percent more likely to participate in the workforce
9 than those with only a high school diploma; and

10 WHEREAS, The lifetime earnings of Californians with a college
11 education are more than double those of Californians without this
12 education. Persons with a college education also have fewer health
13 problems, are less likely to commit crimes, are more likely to

1 participate in civic activities, and are able to create more resources
2 for the state; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal government encourages the citizens
4 of the United States to gain more education so as to enable the
5 country to compete more effectively in the global economy; and

6 WHEREAS, All levels of government could encourage savings
7 to pay for higher education opportunities for working adults to
8 allow those adults to acquire new skills, raise their standard of
9 living, and prepare them to be part of the workforce in our changing
10 economy; and

11 WHEREAS, Lifelong Learning Accounts have been shown to
12 be an effective method to encourage employers and employees to
13 set aside money to pay for tuition, fees, supplies, materials, and
14 books necessary for further education and training; and

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports the creation of innovative
16 programs that encourages lifelong learning, including Lifelong
17 Learning Accounts, that might be available through funding from
18 the federal government because those programs will lead to a more
19 skilled workforce which will, in turn, help California maintain its
20 role as an economic leader in today's changing economy; now
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
23 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
24 urges the federal government to create and fund programs that
25 encourage lifelong learning, such as Lifelong Learning Accounts,
26 within California; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
28 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
29 States, to the Secretary of Labor, to the Secretary of Education, to
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator
31 and Representative from California in the Congress of the United
32 States.