

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 64

**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma**

***(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Villines)***

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

April 20, 2009

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to Hepatitis B Awareness Month.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 64, as amended, Ma. Hepatitis B.

This measure would declare May 2009, to be Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California, recognize May 19, 2009, as World Hepatitis Awareness Day, and call on all interested parties to come together to

raise awareness and educate the public on hepatitis B and to make recommendations on ways to implement best practices in hepatitis B prevention and treatment.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, May 19, 2009, is World Hepatitis Awareness Day;  
2 and  
3 WHEREAS, California does not currently have a comprehensive  
4 statewide plan addressing the prevention and treatment of chronic  
5 hepatitis B for all Californians; and  
6 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B is a condition that affects the  
7 human liver, and when left untreated, can lead to further  
8 complications, including cirrhosis, liver cancer, and ultimately,  
9 liver failure and death; and  
10 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B infection is among the top three  
11 causes of cancer in the world and causes the death of one person  
12 every 30 seconds; and  
13 WHEREAS, In the United States, it is estimated that up to 2  
14 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B; and  
15 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 Californians are chronically  
16 infected with hepatitis B; and  
17 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B disproportionately affects  
18 certain communities of color. For example, chronic hepatitis B  
19 and liver cancer are the greatest health disparity for Asians and  
20 Pacific Islanders; and  
21 WHEREAS, Asians and Pacific Islanders comprise 13 percent  
22 of the population of Los Angeles County and suffer from a rate of  
23 liver cancer more than triple that of non-Hispanic whites; and  
24 WHEREAS, San Francisco has the highest proportion of Asian  
25 and Pacific Islander populations in the continental United States  
26 and, correspondingly, has the highest rate of liver cancer in the  
27 nation; and,  
28 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B is preventable and in many  
29 cases can be cured or managed using currently available treatments;  
30 and  
31 WHEREAS, For many reasons, however, those at risk for  
32 hepatitis B infection are not receiving prevention information,  
33 while those chronically infected are not receiving treatment; and  
34 WHEREAS, Given that chronic hepatitis B is a lifelong  
35 condition, some who are at risk refuse to be tested out of fear that

1 a positive diagnosis will be considered as a permanent, preexisting  
2 condition for health care insurance underwriting purposes and will  
3 thereby put their future health care coverage at risk, especially if  
4 laid off and rehired by a second employer; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares May 2009, to be  
7 Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California and recognizes May  
8 19, 2009, as World Hepatitis Awareness Day; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls on all interested parties,  
10 including, but not limited to, the public and private sector, for-profit  
11 sector, the private nonprofit sector, and the philanthropic  
12 community, to come together to raise awareness and educate the  
13 public on hepatitis B and to make recommendations on ways to  
14 implement best practices in hepatitis B prevention and treatment;  
15 and be it further,

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