

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 145

Introduced by Assembly Member Brownley
(~~Coauthor: Assembly Member Skinner~~)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Skinner and Torlakson)
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

March 15, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 145—Relative to California Healthy Schools Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 145, as amended, Brownley. California Healthy Schools Day.

This measure would recognize April 26, 2010, as California Healthy Schools Day, and would encourage schools and school districts to take proactive and preventative steps to create and maintain healthy school environments.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, One in five Californians spend their days in
- 2 California's 12,000 public and private schools, including more
- 3 than six million children who spend an average of 30 to 50 hours
- 4 per week in school; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Over one-half of schools in the United States have
- 6 problems linked to unhealthy indoor air quality, according to the
- 7 United States Environmental Protection Agency, and some
- 8 classrooms in California have problems of inadequate ventilation,
- 9 high formaldehyde concentrations, moisture and mold, and toxic

1 residues in dust, according to a study by the State Air Resources
2 Board; and

3 WHEREAS, Children's developing bodies are more vulnerable
4 to air toxins because they breathe in more air per pound of body
5 weight; and

6 WHEREAS, Poor indoor environmental quality is associated
7 with a wide range of problems, including poor concentration,
8 learning difficulties, respiratory illnesses such as asthma,
9 headaches, fatigue, organ damage, and other serious health effects;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, An average of one out of every six schoolage
12 children in California has asthma, the leading cause of school
13 absenteeism from a chronic illness, accounting for approximately
14 1.9 million missed school days each year. Teachers and custodians
15 have high rates of work-related asthma, and report exposures to
16 cleaning products as a cause of their asthma; and

17 WHEREAS, California schools lose an estimated \$40 million
18 per year for pupils' asthma-related absences, and lose additional
19 funds from workers compensation claims related to exposure to
20 or injury from cleaning products; and

21 WHEREAS, Hazardous ingredients in cleaning products
22 contribute to poor indoor air quality, as documented in numerous
23 studies, and conventional cleaning products often contain
24 ingredients, including fragrances and preservatives, known to cause
25 cancer, asthma, reproductive harm, organ damage, and other serious
26 health effects; and

27 WHEREAS, The lack of full disclosure of chemical ingredients
28 in cleaning products makes it difficult to know what hazards are
29 in cleaning products used in schools; and

30 WHEREAS, Schools should choose less toxic cleaning products,
31 and cleaning products should be used during periods of time when
32 children are not present and when adequate ventilation is ~~available~~
33 *available. Schools are encouraged to follow federal Centers for*
34 *Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and state health*
35 *guidelines for required disinfection and sanitation practices; and*

36 WHEREAS, *Currently the United States Environmental*
37 *Protection Agency does not allow environmentally preferable*
38 *claims for any disinfecting cleaner, sanitizer, or any other*
39 *antimicrobial product regulated by the Federal Insecticide,*
40 *Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.); and*

1 *WHEREAS, Cleaning products are intended for routine cleaning*
 2 *and maintenance, including, but not limited to, general purpose*
 3 *cleaners, bathroom cleaners, carpet cleaners, glass cleaners, floor*
 4 *cleaners, floor finishes, floor strippers, hand cleaners, and soaps;*
 5 *and*

6 WHEREAS, There are hundreds of widely available and
 7 cost-competitive cleaning products that are less toxic and do not
 8 contain ingredients known to cause cancer, asthma, reproductive
 9 harm, aquatic toxicity, and other environmental hazards; and

10 WHEREAS, Training for school staff in the use of less toxic
 11 cleaners is available at no cost through numerous vendors,
 12 nonprofit organizations, and public agencies; and

13 WHEREAS, Research has shown improved indoor air quality
 14 provides a healthier and safer learning environment for children,
 15 teachers, and staff, and also improves academic achievement and
 16 well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, Schools that have switched to less toxic cleaning
 18 products that do not contain ingredients known to cause cancer,
 19 asthma, reproductive harm, organ damage, aquatic toxicity, and
 20 other environmental hazards have improved indoor air quality,
 21 reduced absenteeism, lowered their costs, and acted proactively
 22 to safeguard the health of pupils and staff; and

23 WHEREAS, Actions that schools take to improve indoor air
 24 quality and switch to less toxic cleaning products can be eligible
 25 for recognition as part of broader green, healthy, and high
 26 performance school certification programs; and

27 WHEREAS, April 26, 2010, is National Healthy Schools Day,
 28 sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
 29 the United States Department of Energy, and more than 35 other
 30 organizations, and is observed by communities across the country
 31 to celebrate and promote healthy school environments for all
 32 children through the use of the United States Environmental
 33 Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program,
 34 focusing in the year 2010 on the use of less toxic cleaning products
 35 that help reduce pollutants from indoor air; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved*, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate
 37 thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California
 38 recognizes April 26, 2010, as California Healthy Schools Day;
 39 and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That schools are encouraged to take proactive and
2 preventative steps to create and maintain healthy school
3 environments, including training all staff on best maintenance
4 practices, developing and implementing self-assessments and
5 indoor environmental quality management plans such as following
6 the guidance provided by the United States Environmental
7 Protection Agency’s Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program,
8 using less toxic cleaning products, implementing integrated pest
9 management programs, and ensuring adequate ventilation, as
10 recommended by the State Air Resources Board and the State
11 Department of Public Health; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That school districts are encouraged to consider
13 purchasing less toxic cleaning products that do not contain
14 ingredients known to cause cancer, asthma, reproductive harm,
15 organ damage, aquatic toxicity, and other environmental hazards
16 that are available at discounted rates through cooperative
17 purchasing agreements or other public procurement entities,
18 *provided that schools continue to follow federal Centers for*
19 *Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and state health*
20 *guidelines for required disinfection and sanitation practices; and*
21 *be it further*

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
24 copies of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
25 the Secretary for Education; the Directors of the State Department
26 of Public Health, the State Air Resources Board, the Department
27 of General Services, and the California Environmental Protection
28 Agency; and to the author for appropriate distribution.