

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 8, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla

***(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Hall, Ma, Monning, Perea,
and Williams)***

(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Evans, Liu, and Runner)

February 14, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to women in sports.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 27, as amended, Bonilla. Women in sports.

This measure would commemorate the 40th anniversary of Title IX on June 23, 2012, commend the movement toward increased equality and fair treatment of female athletes, and praise the goal of greater opportunities in sports for girls and young women in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, When the California Interscholastic Federation
- 2 (CIF) was formed in 1914, girls’ physical education did not include
- 3 interscholastic sports teams; and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 1964, the CIF Federated Council adopted a set
- 5 of bylaws for girls’ interscholastic sports that stated that schools
- 6 and school districts may organize girls’ sports teams; and
- 7 WHEREAS, By the 1967–68 school year, almost half of
- 8 California’s secondary schools conducted a CIF girls’
- 9 interscholastic athletic program of some degree; and
- 10 WHEREAS, In 1972, the United States Congress enacted Title
- 11 IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and

1 WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
2 (hereafter Title IX) states, in part, as follows: “No person in the
3 United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from
4 participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to
5 discrimination under any education program or activity receiving
6 Federal financial assistance”; and

7 WHEREAS, Prior to the enactment of Title IX, many schools
8 refused to admit girls and women to, or imposed strict limits on
9 their participation in, a wide range of sports; and

10 WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Title IX, the participation
11 and interest of girls and women in sports has soared. Only 300,000
12 girls participated in California high school sports *and fewer than*
13 *32,000 women participated in college sports* prior to Title IX;
14 today the number is ~~in excess of 2.37~~ *nearly three* million; and

15 *WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Title IX, participation of*
16 *girls and women in sports has increased by 904 percent in high*
17 *schools and 456 percent in colleges; and*

18 WHEREAS, Title IX governs the overall equity of opportunity
19 in athletics, including areas such as equipment and supplies, travel,
20 support services, and scholarships; and

21 WHEREAS, Scholarship opportunities are an important way
22 that educational institutions meet the needs and interests of student
23 athletes; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1995–96, across all National Collegiate Athletic
25 Association divisions, male athletes received 63 percent of the
26 scholarship funding and female athletes received 37 percent of
27 scholarship dollars, or \$142,622,803 less than their male
28 counterparts; and

29 *WHEREAS, Today, male athletes receive 55 percent of the*
30 *scholarship funding and female athletes receive 45 percent of*
31 *scholarship dollars; and*

32 WHEREAS, The amount of recruitment dollars spent on women
33 athletes can be viewed as a measure of institutional commitment
34 to women’s sports programs; and

35 ~~WHEREAS, Women’s~~ *In 1995–96, women’s* teams received
36 26.6 percent of the total available funding while men’s teams
37 received 72.6 percent of that amount; and

38 ~~WHEREAS, Women now constitute 37 percent of college~~
39 ~~athletes and were 39 percent of the 1996 United States Olympic~~
40 ~~Team members; and~~

1 *WHEREAS, Today, women's teams receive 38 percent of the*
2 *total available funding while men's teams receive 62 percent of*
3 *that amount; and*

4 WHEREAS, Participation in girls' and women's sports has led
5 to tremendous learning opportunities in leadership skills and team
6 building; and

7 WHEREAS, Girls' and women's sports have contributed
8 enormously to developing self-confidence and self-esteem in
9 women; and

10 WHEREAS, Girls and young women who are involved in sports
11 have been found to be less likely to smoke, use drugs, or have
12 babies as teenagers; and

13 WHEREAS, Girls' and women's sports and other fitness
14 programs for women have led millions of women into positive
15 lifelong habits of physical activity, improved fitness, and
16 consequently greatly improved health in our state; and

17 WHEREAS, Title IX has continued to increase opportunities
18 for girls and women in sports but has not achieved the goal of full
19 equality in participation in scholarships, equipment, and other
20 funding; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to girls' and women's sports, numerous
22 health clubs, specialized programs in women's fitness, and outdoor
23 activities and programs that promote self-sufficiency and
24 self-confidence in women through outdoor adventures are dedicated
25 to promoting lifelong participation of women in sports and fitness;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, These same organizations have sought to create a
28 public awareness that encourages greater female participation and
29 greater support of gender equality and empowerment through
30 sports and outdoor programs; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
32 *California, jointly, That high school and college coaches of*
33 *women's athletics are to be commended for progress in attaining*
34 *the goals of Title IX and fulfilling the hopes and dreams of girls*
35 *and women in sports; and be it further*

36 *Resolved, That the CIF and California high schools and colleges*
37 *are to be commended for the progress made already; and*
38 *encouraged in further efforts by all to meet the challenge of equality*
39 *in sports and the greatest fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of*
40 *girls and women in our schools; and be it further*

1 *Resolved*, That programs and projects that emphasize girls' and
2 women's confidence building through fitness and physical
3 challenges in sports and outdoor adventure, such as the Women's
4 Sports Foundation, be commended for their positive impact in
5 carrying forward the fitness message for girls and women; and be
6 it further

7 *Resolved*, That parents, families, businesses, women athletes
8 who serve as positive role models, and all others who have
9 contributed to girls' and women's leadership and team player skills
10 through sports and fitness activities are to be commended; and be
11 it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California, on
13 June 23, 2012, commemorates the 40th anniversary of Title IX,
14 commends the movement toward increased equality and fair
15 treatment of female athletes, and praises the goals of greater
16 opportunities in sports for girls and young women in California;
17 and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
21 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
22 United States.