

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 57

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

May 9, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 57, as introduced, Carter. Dropout Recovery Week.

This measure would declare the week June 6 through June 12, 2011, to be Dropout Recovery Week and would state the Legislature's intent to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Research suggests that fewer than 70 percent of
2 9th grade pupils in California, and in some school districts, fewer
3 than 50 percent, graduate from high school; and
4 WHEREAS, A recent survey by the Public Policy Institute of
5 California found that strong majorities of public school parents
6 and adults across political parties, regions, and demographic groups
7 view the dropout rate as a big problem; and
8 WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education
9 demonstrates that if only one-half of the dropouts were recovered
10 in California's six largest metropolitan areas, the economic benefits
11 to California would be staggering: those recovered dropouts would
12 invest an additional \$247 million a year, increase home sales by
13 \$2.92 billion during their careers, support an additional 6,800 jobs

1 to the midpoint of their careers, and increase state and local tax
2 revenues by \$129 million every year; and

3 WHEREAS, Research further demonstrates that reengaged
4 learners demonstrate higher civic engagement, contribute to the
5 cultural strengths of their communities, and are significantly less
6 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a
7 violent crime; and

8 WHEREAS, There exist dropout recovery high schools in
9 California that provide significant social, economic, and academic
10 benefits to their pupils and to California's population as a whole;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Dropout recovery high schools face significant
13 challenges in reengaging pupils into academic endeavors,
14 including: (1) dropouts who reenter high school often perform
15 significantly below grade level; (2) pupils who drop out display a
16 gradual process of disengagement from school that encompasses
17 years of academic and behavioral difficulties, absenteeism, and
18 stressful life circumstances; (3) reengagement into a high school
19 setting can be difficult and take a significant amount of time; and
20 (4) pupils who have dropped out once are significantly more likely
21 to drop out again; and

22 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd found that one-half of the
23 dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less, one-third
24 of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course after they
25 reenroll, and only 18 percent of returning dropouts graduate; and

26 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools attract
27 and retain high-quality staff committed to meeting the instructional
28 needs of the whole pupil; and

29 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools utilize
30 multiple strategies to overcome these challenges, including
31 state-of-the-art technology, career technical education to reach a
32 variety of learning modalities, accelerated learning pedagogies,
33 competency-based, rather than seat time-based, instruction, and
34 open entry and open exit enrollment; and

35 WHEREAS, Reengaged learners are no longer at risk of failure
36 but at promise of success; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week
39 of June 6 through June 12, 2011, to be Dropout Recovery Week,
40 in honor of the schools and staff who work to reengage pupils who

1 have previously dropped out of school, and in honor of the pupils
2 who have overcome significant personal challenges to reengage
3 in high school and become transformed learners who will continue
4 to pursue education to prepare for college and career in their
5 futures; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support
7 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,
8 alternative assessments, and adequate resources; and be it further

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