

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 134

Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Carter, Dickinson, and
V. Manuel Pérez)
(Coauthor: Senator Lowenthal)

March 20, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 134—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 134, as introduced, Hueso. Dropout Recovery Week.

This measure would declare the week of June 4 to June 10, inclusive, 2012, 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 2011 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, the economic benefits to California would be

1 staggering: those recovered dropouts would invest an additional
2 \$394 million a year, increase home sales by \$4.5 billion during
3 their careers, support an additional 8,700 jobs to the midpoint of
4 their careers, and increase state and local tax revenues by \$167
5 million every year; and

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools attract
30 and retain high-quality staff committed to meeting the instructional
31 needs of the whole pupil; and

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

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

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares the week
3 of June 4 to June 10, inclusive, 2012, to be Dropout Recovery
4 Week, in honor of the schools and staff who work to reengage
5 pupils who have previously dropped out of school, and in honor
6 of the pupils who have overcome significant personal challenges
7 to reengage in high school and become transformed learners who
8 will continue to pursue education to prepare for college and career
9 in their futures; and be it further

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

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