

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 8, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 6, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 161

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson

June 13, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161—Relative to food literacy awareness month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 161, as amended, Dickinson. Food literacy awareness month.

This measure would proclaim the month of September of each year as food literacy awareness month.

Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~-no.

- 1 WHEREAS, “Food literacy” is defined as the understanding of
2 the impact of your food choices on your health, the environment,
3 and our community; and
4 WHEREAS, Our food choices affect our health. In California,
5 38 percent of children are overweight. If the problem of obesity
6 is not reversed, poor diet and physical inactivity will likely overtake
7 tobacco as the leading cause of preventable death in America; and
8 WHEREAS, Only 25 percent of United States adults eat the
9 recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables daily; and
10 WHEREAS, Residents living in low-income and underserved
11 rural and urban neighborhoods without access to healthy foods,
12 known as “food deserts,” have more health problems and higher

1 mortality rates than residents of areas with a higher proportion of
2 grocery stores. Outcomes worsen when the food desert has high
3 concentrations of nearby fast food alternatives; and

4 WHEREAS, People who shop at farmers' markets obtain
5 farm-grown products that make a shorter farm-to-table trip,
6 purchase directly from a family farm, obtain cultural and specialty
7 fruits and vegetables that are often not easily available elsewhere,
8 and strengthen the local economy while decreasing the demand
9 on transportation from outlying areas; and

10 WHEREAS, Our food choices affect the environment: when
11 food items are sold in a more direct way, such as at farmers'
12 markets, food items tend to be relatively less processed, which can
13 result in significant energy savings; and

14 WHEREAS, Our food choices affect our community: as they
15 develop, California food systems create jobs and raise incomes in
16 the areas they serve; and

17 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
18 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
19 more than 400 crops and livestock products and accounting for
20 approximately 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits,
21 vegetables, and nuts; and

22 WHEREAS, Education is needed to inspire change. A broad
23 approach to nutritional education is vital to ensure that California
24 agriculture continues to flourish; and

25 WHEREAS, When individuals are taught how to cook with
26 fresh fruits and vegetables, they are 85 percent more likely to
27 incorporate ~~them~~ *fruits and vegetables* into their diet. People who
28 don't cook spend a larger percentage of their budget on food than
29 those who do; and

30 WHEREAS, The objective of food literacy awareness month
31 will be to promote food education, inspire food choices that are
32 good for people and good for the planet, encourage parental
33 involvement, and motivate communitywide support; now, therefore
34 be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
37 month of September of each year as food literacy awareness month
38 in California; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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