

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 69

Introduced by Senator Pavley

(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Cannella, Correa, DeSaulnier, Dutton, Evans, Fuller, Liu, Price, Steinberg, Strickland, and Wolk)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Alejo*, Ammiano, *Block*, Hall, Huffman, Ma, Miller, Monning, Portantino, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

February 23, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to California Autism Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 69, as amended, Pavley. California Autism Awareness Month.

This measure would designate April 2012 as California Autism Awareness Month, would affirm the Legislature's commitment to the important issues related to autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), and would emphasize that each and every individual with an ASD is a valued and important member of our society.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) now impact
- 2 one out of every 110 children, and one in every 70 boys, in the
- 3 United States and are the fastest growing serious developmental
- 4 disability, making these disorders more common than pediatric
- 5 cancer, diabetes, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- 6 combined; and

1 WHEREAS, The prevalence of autism is increasing by 10 to
2 17 percent annually and ASDs cost the nation over \$35 billion per
3 year, and this cost is estimated to exceed \$200 billion in 10 years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Most school districts in California have seen a
6 doubling of pupils with ASDs in the past five years. The number
7 of Californians with ASDs who are served by the State Department
8 of Developmental Services now exceeds 50,000, which is a number
9 that has increased fivefold since 1998, and is more than 12 times
10 what it was in 1987; and

11 WHEREAS, Many Californians are not adequately informed
12 about ASDs and the value and importance of early identification,
13 assessment, and treatment of these disorders; and

14 WHEREAS, Current scientific research demonstrates that the
15 early identification of and intervention with of children with ASDs
16 can result in significant positive outcomes in many children with
17 ASDs; and

18 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports the goal of increasing
19 research to learn the root causes of autism and identify the best
20 methods of early intervention and treatment, expanding programs
21 for individuals with autism across their lifespan, and promoting
22 understanding of the special needs of people with autism; and

23 WHEREAS, Parents and family members have made invaluable
24 contributions through their commitment, care, and advocacy, to
25 important advances in research, education, and treatment for
26 individuals with ASDs; and

27 WHEREAS, Public information and awareness efforts are of
28 paramount importance in accelerating early identification efforts
29 and the proliferation of early intervention programs and services;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The Senate Select Committee on Autism and
32 Related Disorders has appointed regional autism task forces that
33 are comprised of consumers and their family members, advocates,
34 providers, researchers, and other experts in the area of ASDs, and
35 other stakeholders, to provide assistance to, and to support the
36 work of, the select committee. Senator Steinberg, as Chair of the
37 Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders, has
38 established the Statewide Coordinating Council of Autism
39 Taskforces that consists of the leadership of the regional autism
40 task forces and has provided input and integrated recommendations

1 for consideration by the Senate Select Committee on Autism and
2 Related Disorders; and

3 WHEREAS, California has been the established leader in
4 providing services and support for the early identification,
5 assessment, intervention, education, and treatment of individuals
6 with ASDs. This leadership began with the passage of landmark
7 state legislation, such as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities
8 Services Act in 1969 and Assembly Bill 3854 (Chapter 1527 of
9 the Statutes of 1974), relating to autism and public education; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission
11 on Autism submitted its report, “An Opportunity to Achieve Real
12 Change for Californians with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” which
13 provided specific findings and recommendations; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2009, the Senate Committee on Rules, pursuant
15 to Senate Rule 12.5, established the Senate Select Committee on
16 Autism and Related Disorders and this committee has appointed
17 regional autism task forces; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates April 2012 as
20 California Autism Awareness Month, affirms the Legislature’s
21 commitment to the important issues related to ASDs, and
22 emphasizes that each and every individual with an ASD is a valued
23 and important member of our society; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
25 parents and relatives of individuals with ASDs for their sacrifice
26 and dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals
27 with ASDs; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
29 work of all of the nonprofit organizations that contribute to the
30 well-being of individuals with autism and their families; and be it
31 further

32 *Resolved*, That the Legislature stresses the need to identify
33 children with ASDs and to begin early intervention services
34 immediately after a child has been diagnosed with autism; and be
35 it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature also stresses the need to provide
37 these intervention services, as well as supports, for individuals
38 with ASDs and their families in an integrated, seamless,
39 comprehensive, and competent manner that is delivered across the
40 child’s lifespan; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O