

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 106

Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon

February 21, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 106—Relative to the 26th Annual State Scientist Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 106, as introduced, Gordon. 26th Annual State Scientist Day.

This measure would declare May 14, 2014, as the 26th Annual State Scientist Day, as a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who work on behalf of all the residents of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The state employs nearly 3,000 professional
2 scientists in over 30 state departments working in more than 230
3 scientific classifications; and

4 WHEREAS, State scientists hold graduate degrees in virtually
5 every scientific discipline, including biology, nematology, virology,
6 seismology, epidemiology, toxicology, and many others; and

7 WHEREAS, State scientists are represented by the California
8 Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), which is dedicated
9 to professionalism, independence, responsible advocacy, and
10 ensuring that state scientists receive fair pay and benefits for their
11 important work; and

12 WHEREAS, The Governor wrote in October 2007 that “I value
13 the dedication and work of the State’s scientists, and I am
14 concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind those
15 of comparable workers” and that he wants to ensure “that the State

1 is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable
2 compensation for the scientists”; and

3 WHEREAS, The work of state scientists protects the public
4 from life-threatening diseases, safeguards our wildlife and abundant
5 natural resources, and protects our air and water from toxic waste
6 and pollution; and

7 WHEREAS, State scientists are required to make critical
8 decisions every day based on rigorous scientific factfinding, and
9 these decisions ultimately impact the lives and property of all
10 Californians; and

11 WHEREAS, If this state loses its scientific expertise, the state
12 will go unarmed in the battles against greenhouse gas emissions,
13 air pollution, and the overall protection of children’s health,
14 according to a 2006 California Environmental Protection Agency
15 report; and

16 WHEREAS, State scientists perform important work in the areas
17 of infectious disease prevention, oil spill prevention and cleanup,
18 public health drinking water monitoring, the protection of
19 agricultural crops, brownfields mitigation, chemical and
20 radiological disaster response, and much more; and

21 WHEREAS, CAPS cosponsors the Sacramento Regional Science
22 and Engineering Fair, one of California’s 14 regional science and
23 engineering fairs, serving hundreds of middle and high schools in
24 10 California counties; and

25 WHEREAS, State scientists host an annual State Scientist Day
26 at the State Capitol to increase public awareness and recognition
27 of the significant contributions made by scientists working in state
28 government while entertaining and educating over 3,500
29 elementary school students with fun, hands-on science exhibits;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, State Scientist Day has sparked an interest in
32 science for thousands of California schoolchildren, legislators,
33 state employees, and members of the public, who attend the special
34 event; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring*, That May 14, 2014, shall be recognized as the
37 26th Annual State Scientist Day, and that this day shall be a tribute
38 to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who
39 work on behalf of all the residents of 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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