

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 130

Introduced by Assembly Member Rendon

April 2, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 130—Relative to “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 130, as introduced, Rendon. Parks Make Life Better! Month.

This measure would declare the Legislature’s recognition of the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health and development of all Californians. This measure would also declare the month of July 2014 as “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, A 2009 public opinion research study, conducted
2 by the California Park and Recreation Society, revealed that 98
3 percent of California’s households visit a local park and 50 percent
4 of California households participate in an organized recreation
5 program annually; and

6 WHEREAS, California’s residents value their local parks and
7 recreation services, as they provide access to the serenity and
8 inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, and places for play and
9 exercise; facilities for directed and self-directed recreation;
10 activities that facilitate social connections, human development,
11 the arts, and lifelong learning; and positive alternatives for youth
12 that help lower crime and mischief; and

13 WHEREAS, The 2010 California Obesity Prevention Plan states
14 the following:

1 (a) One in every nine California children, one in three teens,
2 and over 50 percent of adults are already overweight or obese, and
3 obesity affects virtually all age, income, educational, ethnic, and
4 disability groups.

5 (b) Research has shown that where people live, work, and play
6 impacts obesity. For example, in Imperial County, 73 percent of
7 adults are overweight or obese, while only 43 percent of San
8 Francisco City and County adults are overweight or obese.

9 (c) California's costs attributable to physical inactivity, obesity,
10 and excess body weight in 2006 were estimated at forty-one billion
11 two hundred million dollars (\$41,200,000,000). In contrast, a
12 5-percent improvement in each of these risk factors could result
13 in an annual savings of nearly two billion four hundred million
14 dollars (\$2,400,000,000).

15 (d) To address obesity, the state must ensure that all California
16 residents have access to safe places to play and be active; and

17 WHEREAS, California's 10 Step Vision for a Healthy California
18 is a call to action to transform the state so that all Californians can
19 enjoy healthy eating and active living, resulting in all of the
20 following:

21 (a) Every day, every child will participate in physical activity.

22 (b) California's adults will be physically active every day.

23 (c) Neighborhoods, communities, and buildings will support
24 physical activity, including safe walking, stair climbing, and
25 bicycling; and

26 WHEREAS, The Governor, Legislature, and citizens have
27 prioritized efforts to increase physical activity, access to nature,
28 spaces for play and exercise, the arts, lifelong learning, and social
29 connections among children and adults through the approval of
30 statewide park bond programs; and

31 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society promotes
32 the positive personal and community benefits of parks, open space,
33 trails, recreation facilities and programs, nature education, and
34 sports for able and disabled children, teens, adults, and seniors;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, Participation in physical activities can lower a
37 citizen's risk of developing chronic health problems, such as high
38 blood pressure, asthma, heart disease, and diabetes, and also help
39 children grow up to be healthier adults; and

1 WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society has
2 released a statewide public awareness campaign, “Parks Make
3 Life Better!” to inform citizens of the many benefits of utilizing
4 parks, facilities, programs, and services; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the importance
7 of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities such as
8 swimming pools, skate parks, dog parks, tennis courts, nature
9 centers, and museums, for the health and development of all
10 Californians; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the month of July 2014
12 as “Parks Make Life Better!” Month; 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.