

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 145**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 108**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 145—Relative to child vision screening.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 16, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 145, Nakanishi. Minors: health care: vision screening.

This measure would, no later than January 1, 2007, establish a panel, comprised of specified members, to study the state's existing vision screening and appraisal requirements for children upon enrollment or upon entering the 1st grade. This measure would require the panel to make recommendations on ways to improve those requirements, in order to ensure proper followup eye care and appropriate referrals are being provided to children for their optimum physical development and scholastic performance. This measure would require the panel to submit to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Health a preliminary report of its conclusions and recommendations by June 1, 2007, and a final report no later than September 1, 2007.

WHEREAS, The people of California recognize the importance of early detection of vision impairments in children that, if treated, can prevent permanent damage or even blindness; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly two out of three children do not receive preventative vision care before entering elementary school and, left undetected, impaired vision can alter a child's cognitive, emotional, neurological, and physical development; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services has identified 154,000 children who, at five and six years of age, received vision screenings between the years 2002 and 2003 through the California Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, 6 percent of which required followup treatment; and

WHEREAS, Existing law requires all children entering the first grade to obtain a vision screening consistent with the health screening and evaluation testing requirements mandated by the CHDP program, unless voluntarily waived in writing by a parent or guardian; and

WHEREAS, Existing law requires children to obtain a vision appraisal upon first enrollment in elementary school and at least every third year until completion of the eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, There is no mechanism currently in place to track existing vision screening and appraisal results, or to ensure appropriate followup care once a vision deficiency is detected; and

WHEREAS, Vision screening and referral protocol is unequivocally recommended by the medical and optometric communities because many of the detectable afflictions can have lasting effects on a child's ability to excel in both academics and the future workplace; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature shall convene a panel, no later than January 1, 2007, to study existing vision screening and appraisal requirements for children upon enrollment or upon entering the first grade. Upon conclusion of this study, the panel shall recommend ways to improve existing vision screening and appraisal requirements. The goal of these recommendations shall be to ensure that children are receiving proper followup eye care and appropriate referrals to ophthalmologists or optometrists, when necessary, thereby improving children's physical development and scholastic performance; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint to the panel one representative each from the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics—California District IX, the American Academy of Optometry, the clinical vision services optometrist at the Permanente Medical Group, the California Optometric Association, the Senate Democratic Caucus, and of the Senate Republican Caucus; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Speaker of the Assembly shall designate the chair and appoint to the panel one representative each from the California Medical Association, the California Academy of Ophthalmology, the California Academy of Family Physicians, the clinical vision services ophthalmologist at the Permanente Medical Group, the California School Nurses Organization, the California Teachers Association, the Assembly Democratic Caucus, and the Assembly Republican Caucus; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the members of the panel shall not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed from private sources for necessary travel expenses for the purpose of attending meetings of the panel, including any public meetings that the panel schedules, and that the panel shall be funded solely by private sources; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the panel shall submit to the Assembly Committee on Health and the Senate Committee on Health a preliminary report of its conclusions and recommendations by June 1, 2007, and a final report of its conclusions and recommendations no later than September 1, 2007; and be it further

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