

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 20**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mark Stone**

February 9, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to California Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 20, as introduced, Mark Stone. California Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of February 15, 2015, through February 21, 2015, as California Court Reporting and Captioning Week and request the governor to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and educational activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1       WHEREAS, For millennia, individuals have wanted the spoken  
2 word translated into text to record history and to accomplish this  
3 task have relied on scribes; and  
4       WHEREAS, The profession of scribe was born with the rise of  
5 civilization; and  
6       WHEREAS, In ancient Egypt, scribes were considered to be  
7 the literate elite, recording laws and other important documents  
8 and, since that time, have served as impartial witnesses to history;  
9 and  
10       WHEREAS, Scribes were present with our nation’s founding  
11 fathers as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights  
12 were drafted; and

1 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln entrusted scribes to  
2 record the Emancipation Proclamation; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the advent of shorthand machines, these  
4 scribes have been known as court reporters and have played a  
5 permanent and invaluable role across our country; and

6 WHEREAS, Court reporters are present in the California State  
7 Legislature, preserving legislators' words and actions; and

8 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for  
9 keeping a complete, accurate, secure, and unbiased record of  
10 courtroom proceedings and other legal matters, including civil  
11 depositions; and

12 WHEREAS, Through the Transcript Reimbursement Fund,  
13 court reporters fund and are responsible for providing courtroom  
14 transcripts to indigent litigants; and

15 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for  
16 the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at  
17 sporting stadiums, and in other community and educational settings,  
18 bringing information to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing  
19 Americans every day; and

20 WHEREAS, Court reporters regularly volunteer to document  
21 educational events and to capture veterans' oral histories at  
22 community events; and

23 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 8,500 Californians working  
24 as court reporters and captioners; and

25 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners translate the spoken  
26 word into text and preserve our history; and

27 WHEREAS, Whether called the scribes of yesterday or the court  
28 reporters and captioners of today, the individuals who preserve  
29 our nation's history are truly the guardians of the record; now,  
30 therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
32 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims February 15,  
33 2015, through February 21, 2015, as California Court Reporting  
34 and Captioning Week, and requests that the Governor issue a  
35 proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California  
36 to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and  
37 educational activities; 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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