

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Gonzalez

February 26, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Relative to the 27th Annual State Scientist Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 35, as introduced, Gonzalez. 27th Annual State Scientist Day.

This measure would declare May 13, 2015, as the 27th 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 81
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, and responsible advocacy; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger wrote in October 2007
11 that “I value the dedication and work of the State’s scientists, and
12 I am concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind
13 those of comparable workers” and that he wants to ensure “that
14 the State is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable
15 compensation for the scientists”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring,* That May 13, 2015, shall be recognized as the
35 27th Annual State Scientist Day, and that this day shall be a tribute
36 to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who
37 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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