Introduced by Senator Leyva

March 11, 2019

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24—Relative to Arts Education Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 24, as introduced, Leyva. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2019 to be Arts Education Month and would encourage all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1   WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,
2   theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic
3   education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades
4   1 to 12, inclusive; and
5   WHEREAS, The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational
6   policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and
7   lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all
8   children for success after high school regardless of gender, age,
9   economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and
10   WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual
11 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of
12 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement
13 learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to
14 offer; and
15   WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of
16 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,
17 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social

1   interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace
2   and lifelong learning; and
3   WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils
4   in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the
5   Education Code, which provide, in part, "[t]he adopted course of
6   study ... shall include instruction ... in ... [v]isual and performing
7   arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre,
8   and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation
9   and the skills of creative expression"; and
10   WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality
11   education, and the University of California and the California State
12   University have instituted a policy that includes visual and
13   performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school
14   pupils wishing to enter the state's institutions of higher education;
15   and
16   WHEREAS, The State of California, through the local control
17   funding formula, has provided flexibility for local educational
18   agencies to target growing resources towards arts education; and
19   WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Legislature that this funding
20   help implement a comprehensive vision for arts education at the
21   local level to ensure that every pupil in the state benefits from this
22   investment; and
23   WHEREAS, This funding is the first step in investing in quality
24   visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils; and
25   WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education
26   associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving
27   California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of
28   the arts for all pupils, foster cross-cultural understanding, give
29   recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and enhance
30   public support for this essential part of the curriculum; now,
31   therefore, be it
32   *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
33   *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims the month of
34   March 2019 as Arts Education Month, and encourages all elected
35   officials to participate with their educational communities in
36   celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and programs for
37   pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and
38   understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all
39   residents to become interested in and give full support to quality
40   school arts programs for children and youth; and be it further

1   *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2   this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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