

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 198

Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon

June 20, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 198—Relative to sun safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 198, as introduced, Gordon. Sun safety.

This measure would encourage teaching sun safety practices to children to enable them to identify the importance of sun safety, practice strategies to protect against the harmful effects of the sun, and understand why and how to stay safe from overexposure to the sun.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The chief cause of skin cancer is exposure to
2 ultraviolet (UV) rays from natural sunlight and artificial sources;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, At least one in five Americans will develop skin
5 cancer in his or her lifetime and one American dies every hour
6 from the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, During October 2014, the United States Department
8 of Health and Human Services, in its 13th Report on Carcinogens,
9 classified solar radiation, which includes UV rays, as a “known
10 human carcinogen” or cancer-causing agent; and

11 WHEREAS, Skin cancer is by far the most common cancer
12 found among California residents; and

13 WHEREAS, In California, new cases of skin cancer are roughly
14 equal to the total number of new cases of all other types of cancer
15 combined; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to causing skin cancer, unprotected
2 exposure to sunlight can cause eye damage and premature aging
3 of the skin; and

4 WHEREAS, A child's skin is more vulnerable to harmful UV
5 rays than an adult's skin; and

6 WHEREAS, Up to 50 percent of a person's lifetime sun
7 exposure can occur during childhood and adolescence; and

8 WHEREAS, Sunburns, especially in childhood, increase the
9 chances that a person will develop skin cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, Skin cancer is highly preventable when sun safety
11 practices are adopted, such as the use of wide-brimmed hats,
12 UV-protective sunglasses, long clothing, and sunscreen,
13 supplemented by environmental supports, including the provision
14 of shade and the adoption and implementation of sun protection
15 guidelines and policies; and

16 WHEREAS, Children, who are more vulnerable, need to
17 understand why and how to guard against unprotected exposure
18 to the sun; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages teaching sun
21 safety practices to children to enable them to identify the
22 importance of sun safety, practice strategies to protect against the
23 harmful effects of the sun, and understand why and how to stay
24 safe from overexposure to the sun; and be it further

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