

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarthy

March 1, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 30—Relative to the civic mission of schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 30, as introduced, McCarthy. Civic mission of schools.

This measure would urge the State Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden emphasis on principles of democracy in the schools of this state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Preparing each generation to understand and
2 support democratic principles is the responsibility of all of our
3 institutions and was a primary reason for the creation of public
4 schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Our citizens have overwhelmingly agreed over
6 the course of 33 years of Gallup polling that “educating young
7 people for responsible citizenship” should be the primary
8 purpose of our schools; and

9 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that our schools are an
10 effective place to provide systematic and sustained instruction in
11 and opportunities for the application of democratic principles and
12 that early adolescence is a particularly critical time for civic
13 education; and

14 WHEREAS, The democratic principles that underlie our
15 society, the structure, and functions of government, and the
16 rights, responsibilities, and participation of citizens should be a

1 continual and meaningful part of instruction throughout every
2 child's education; and

3 WHEREAS, The importance of pupils' grasp of the concepts
4 of civic responsibility and respect for others cannot be
5 underestimated; and

6 WHEREAS, The history-social science framework goals now
7 guiding California schools call for the integration of knowledge
8 and cultural understanding, democratic understanding, civic
9 values and skills attainment, and social participation at every
10 grade; and

11 WHEREAS, State law requires that secondary pupils complete
12 only a single semester-long course in government/civics; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges the State Board of
16 Education and all local school governing bodies to examine
17 current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden
18 emphasis on principles and practices of democracy in the schools
19 of this state; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
21 copies of this resolution to the State Board of Education and to
22 the author for distribution.