

Introduced by Senator McGuire

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Archuleta, Bates, Borgeas, Caballero, Glazer, Hertzberg, Hueso, Laird, Limón, Newman, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Skinner, and Wiener)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Boerner Horvath, Choi, Cooley, Cristina Garcia, Grayson, Mullin, Nguyen, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, and Stone)

June 14, 2021

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52—Relative to California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 52, as introduced, McGuire. California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of July 2021 as California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month to celebrate the accomplishments and resilience of parks and recreation professionals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California's residents love their national, state, and
2 local parks and recreation services, as they provide access to the
3 serenity and inspiration of nature, outdoor spaces, as well as
4 activities that facilitate social connections, human development,
5 arts appreciation, lifelong learning, and positive alternatives for
6 youth; and

7 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation professionals maintain
8 millions of acres of public lands in order to safely facilitate the

1 use of the state’s local parks, open spaces, trails, recreation
2 facilities, and programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation professionals promote the
4 physical and mental health of Californians by making outdoor
5 activities and sports available to able and disabled children, teens,
6 adults, and seniors; and

7 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation professionals strengthen
8 communities by providing facilities and services that reflect and
9 celebrate community heritage, culture, and history; and

10 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation professionals sustain and
11 steward the state’s natural resources by protecting habitat and open
12 space, connecting people to nature, and promoting the ecological
13 function of parkland; and

14 WHEREAS, When the COVID-19 pandemic hit California’s
15 communities, parks and recreation professionals responded
16 immediately by implementing best practices designed to ensure
17 the public could safely find respite in local outdoor parks and open
18 spaces; and

19 WHEREAS, When the health care sector was overwhelmed by
20 the burden of responding to COVID-19, parks and recreation
21 departments and park districts stepped in to assist by converting
22 their facilities into COVID-19 testing centers and later vaccination
23 administration sites; and

24 WHEREAS, Senior citizens were of the most vulnerable
25 populations to COVID-19, thus parks and recreation professionals
26 found creative ways to keep seniors safe and engaged by
27 developing new and different virtual recreation programming and
28 delivering needed nutrition services; and

29 WHEREAS, When recreation activities were halted in
30 accordance with shelter in place orders across the country, parks
31 and recreation professionals immediately developed campaigns to
32 inspire people to stay active and tirelessly worked to safely keep
33 outdoor spaces available to the public; and

34 WHEREAS, When public health orders prohibited group
35 gatherings, parks and recreation professionals launched new,
36 innovative events and activities that helped bring communities
37 together to connect and enjoy a shared experience; and

38 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation professionals rose up to the
39 challenge to reimagine summer programs and deliver safe and
40 cost-effective recreation opportunities for California’s youth; and

1 WHEREAS, Parks and recreation professionals across the state
2 also introduced distance learning assistance programs that not only
3 supported students through the challenges of remote education,
4 but also offered parents affordable childcare alternatives that
5 allowed California’s workforce to get back to their jobs and provide
6 for their families; and

7 WHEREAS, When California faced intense heat waves during
8 2020, parks and recreation professionals protected the homeless
9 population from the health effects of heat waves by creating cooling
10 centers in air conditioned public spaces; and

11 WHEREAS, When the pandemic was overlapped with
12 devastating wildfires, parks and recreation professionals persevered
13 and continued to serve California’s communities by turning their
14 facilities into firefighter staging centers, emergency event
15 management centers, and emergency shelters; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
19 July 2021 as California Parks and Recreation Professionals Month
20 to celebrate the accomplishments and resilience of parks and
21 recreation professionals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and
22 be it further

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