

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Members Dababneh and Calderon
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, and Wood)

July 15, 2015

House Resolution No. 28—Relative to humane education.

1 WHEREAS, Sections 233.5 (part of the Hate Violence
2 Prevention Act) and 60042 of the Education Code require
3 instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to promote
4 and encourage kindness to pets and humane treatment of animals;
5 and
6 WHEREAS, The States of Florida, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey,
7 Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin have adopted
8 humane education laws similar to California's; and
9 WHEREAS, Numerous academic studies have established a
10 correlation between animal cruelty during childhood and
11 interpersonal violence in adulthood; and

1 WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies in major cities such as
2 Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles have acknowledged this
3 correlation and formed special enforcement units to combat animal
4 cruelty; and

5 WHEREAS, Humane education, such as that involving wildlife,
6 the animals' place in the overall environment, and the negative
7 impacts humans can have on them, including death and extinction,
8 can disrupt the cycle of animal and human abuse by decreasing a
9 child's potential to be abusive or neglectful toward animals and,
10 consequently, to promote prosocial behavior toward humans; and

11 WHEREAS, Humane education programs seek to prevent
12 violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all
13 living beings and help children develop into caring, responsible
14 citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, Reputable nonprofit organizations are working to
16 implement humane education programs through in-classroom
17 presentations, teacher training, and the provision of relevant
18 resources, and these organizations could assist California schools
19 in complying with the Education Code's humane education
20 provisions without burdening school budgets; and

21 WHEREAS, The experiences of these nonprofit organizations,
22 as well as other teachers or organizations that have conducted pilot
23 humane education efforts, provide evidence that student knowledge
24 and positive perceptions of animals is not as commonplace as it
25 should be; and

26 WHEREAS, Deficiencies in children's understanding of the
27 role animals have in the economy of nature and in people's lives
28 contribute to a proliferation in the number of wild and domestic
29 animals that are suffering from cruelty, abandonment, high animal
30 shelter euthanasia rates, and, in extreme circumstances, extinction;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts are undertaking steps
33 to rectify these deficiencies by promoting humane education and
34 implementing it in classrooms; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That*
36 *compliance with Education Code provisions should include*
37 *educating students on the principles of kindness and respect for*
38 *animals and observance of laws, regulations, and policies pertaining*
39 *to the humane treatment of animals, including wildlife and its*
40 *environment; and be it further*

1 *Resolved*, That actions such as implementing statewide or
2 districtwide “humane education days” and involving nonprofit
3 organizations in humane education activities with local faculty
4 and school administrators be considered for inclusion in compliance
5 efforts; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Superintendent of Public Instruction be
7 encouraged to ensure the incorporation of humane education in
8 the core curriculum; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the State Senate, the Superintendent of Public
11 Instruction, the State Board of Education, the State Department of
12 Education, and the author for appropriate distribution.

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