

Introduced by Senator Jackson

February 5, 2018

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to court reporters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 95, as introduced, Jackson. Court reporters.

This measure would proclaim February 10, 2018, to February 17, 2018, inclusive, as California Court Reporting and Captioning Week, and would request that the Governor issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and educational activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For millennia, individuals have wanted the spoken
2 word translated into text to record history and to accomplish this
3 task have relied on scribes; and
4 WHEREAS, The profession of scribe was born with the rise of
5 civilization; and
6 WHEREAS, In ancient Egypt, scribes were considered to be
7 the literate elite, recording laws and other important documents
8 and, since that time, have served as impartial witnesses to history;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, Scribes were present with our nation's founding
11 fathers as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights
12 were drafted; and
13 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln entrusted scribes to
14 record the Emancipation Proclamation; and

1 WHEREAS, Since the advent of shorthand machines, these
2 scribes have been known as court reporters and have played a
3 permanent and invaluable role across our country; and

4 WHEREAS, Court reporters are present in the California State
5 Legislature, preserving legislators' words and actions; and

6 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for
7 keeping a complete, accurate, secure, and unbiased record of
8 courtroom proceedings and other legal matters, including civil
9 depositions; and

10 WHEREAS, Through the Transcript Reimbursement Fund,
11 court reporters fund and are responsible for providing courtroom
12 transcripts to indigent litigants; and

13 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners are responsible for
14 the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at
15 sporting stadiums, and in other community and educational settings,
16 bringing information to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing
17 Americans every day; and

18 WHEREAS, Court reporters regularly volunteer to document
19 educational events and to capture veterans' oral histories at
20 community events; and

21 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 8,500 Californians working
22 as court reporters and captioners; and

23 WHEREAS, Court reporters and captioners translate the spoken
24 word into text and preserve our history; and

25 WHEREAS, Whether called the scribes of yesterday or the court
26 reporters and captioners of today, the individuals who preserve
27 our nation's history are truly the guardians of the record; now,
28 therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly
30 thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims February 10,
31 2018, through February 17, 2018, inclusive, as California Court
32 Reporting and Captioning Week, and requests that the Governor
33 issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of
34 California to observe the day with appropriate programs,
35 ceremonies, and educational activities; and be it further

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