

Introduced by Senator Hurtado

(Coauthors: Senators Caballero, Grove, Kamlager, Leyva, Limón, Melendez, Ochoa Bogh, Rubio, and Skinner)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Bauer-Kahan, Cervantes, Cristina Garcia, Nguyen, Quirk-Silva, and Waldron)

August 16, 2021

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55—Relative to Breastfeeding Awareness Month of 2021.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 55, as introduced, Hurtado. Breastfeeding Awareness Month of 2021.

This measure would proclaim August 2021 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month of 2021 in California. The measure would recognize the unique benefits that breastfeeding provides, as specified, and would affirm that Californians should work to ensure that barriers to initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are removed. The measure would encourage Californians to work together to explore ways to, among other things, improve women’s access to breastfeeding support services in medical, social, and employment settings.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding is an issue of great importance to
2 women, infants, their families, and their physicians and is,
3 therefore, of interest to the Legislature; and

4 WHEREAS, It is the first food system that, as babies, many
5 humans are introduced to and sustained by; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the
7 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the

1 American Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of
2 Breastfeeding Medicine, and the World Health Organization
3 recommend that babies be exclusively breastfed for the first 6
4 month of age and continue to be breastfed until 12 months of age
5 or longer as mutually desired; and

6 WHEREAS, In January 2011, the United States Surgeon General
7 announced a “Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding” that
8 identifies barriers to optimal breastfeeding in health care practices,
9 employment, communities, research, public health infrastructure,
10 and social networks, while also recommending methods in which
11 families, communities, employers, and health care professionals
12 could help to eliminate those barriers to improve breastfeeding
13 rates and increase support for breastfeeding; and

14 WHEREAS, Research shows that human milk and breastfeeding
15 provide advantages to general health, growth, and development
16 while significantly decreasing the risk of a large number of acute
17 and chronic diseases, including, among others, sudden infant death
18 syndrome, asthma, allergies, diabetes, viral and bacterial infections,
19 childhood obesity, childhood leukemia, necrotizing enterocolitis,
20 and infant mortality; and

21 WHEREAS, Mothers who breastfeed have a decreased risk of
22 breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer, postpartum depression, and
23 osteoporosis later in life; and

24 WHEREAS, The nutrients exclusive to human milk are vital to
25 the growth, development, and maintenance of the human brain
26 and cannot be manufactured; and

27 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding has positive economic impacts on
28 families by decreasing the need to pay for medical care for a sick
29 infant and by eliminating the need to purchase infant formula; and

30 WHEREAS, The health benefits to breastfed children and their
31 mothers result in lower health care costs for employers, less
32 employee time off to care for sick children, and higher productivity
33 and employee loyalty; and

34 WHEREAS, Employers, employees, and society benefit by
35 supporting a mother’s decision to breastfeed and by helping to
36 reduce the obstacles to initiating and continuing breastfeeding;
37 now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved*, by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly
39 thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the

1 month of August 2021 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month of 2021
2 in California; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the unique health,
4 economic, and societal benefits that breastfeeding provides to
5 babies, mothers, families, and the community as a whole and
6 affirms that Californians should work to ensure that barriers to
7 initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are removed; and be
8 it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages Californians to work
10 together to explore ways to improve women’s access to
11 breastfeeding support services in medical, social, and employment
12 settings, to facilitate increased awareness and education about
13 breastfeeding, to explore and encourage the use of breastfeeding
14 supports, and to improve the availability of effective breastfeeding
15 resources and community support services; and be it further

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