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**ACR-198 Sun safety.** (2015-2016)

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**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 198**

**CHAPTER 144**

Relative to sun safety.

[ Filed with Secretary of State August 25, 2016. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 198, Gordon. Sun safety.

This measure would encourage teaching sun safety practices to children to enable them to identify the importance of sun safety, practice strategies to protect against the harmful effects of the sun, and understand why and how to stay safe from overexposure to the sun.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The chief cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from natural sunlight and artificial sources; and

WHEREAS, At least one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in his or her lifetime and one American dies every hour from the disease; and

WHEREAS, During October 2014, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in its 13th Report on Carcinogens, classified solar radiation, which includes UV rays, as a “known human carcinogen” or cancer-causing agent; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is by far the most common cancer found among California residents; and

WHEREAS, In California, new cases of skin cancer are roughly equal to the total number of new cases of all other types of cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, In addition to causing skin cancer, unprotected exposure to sunlight can cause eye damage and premature aging of the skin; and

WHEREAS, A child's skin is more vulnerable to harmful UV rays than an adult's skin; and

WHEREAS, Up to 50 percent of a person's lifetime sun exposure can occur during childhood and adolescence; and

WHEREAS, Sunburns, especially in childhood, increase the chances that a person will develop skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is highly preventable when sun safety practices are adopted, such as the use of wide-brimmed hats, UV-protective sunglasses, long clothing, and sunscreen, supplemented by environmental supports, including the provision of shade and the adoption and implementation of sun protection guidelines and policies; and

WHEREAS, Children, who are more vulnerable, need to understand why and how to guard against unprotected exposure to the sun; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature encourages teaching sun safety practices to children to enable them to identify the importance of sun safety, practice strategies to protect against the harmful effects of the sun, and understand why and how to stay safe from overexposure to the sun; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.