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HR-51 (2015-2016)

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2015–2016 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION

NO. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

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

May 02, 2016

Relative to Compost Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

HR 51, as amended, Quirk.

WHEREAS, Composting is an effective form of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, and since organic materials make up approximately 30 percent of the material going to landfills, composting is becoming one of the primary methods communities use to reach waste diversion goals and create sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 719 of the Statutes of 2014 phased out diversion credits for organic alternative daily cover in landfills and Chapter 727 of the Statutes of 2014 statutorily mandated commercial recycling of organics; and

WHEREAS, Section 42649.87 of the Public Resources Code requires the California Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to “develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills by promoting the use of agricultural, forestry, and urban organic waste as a feedstock for composting and by promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the state”; and

WHEREAS, Materials, including yard trimmings, vegetable cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, have been composted and converted into a beneficial product known as compost; and

WHEREAS, Returning organic resources to the soil reduces water consumption by over 30 percent on all soil types, conserves water during extreme drought or flooding conditions, decreases dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and decreases erosion and nonpoint source pollution; and

WHEREAS, Composting is recognized by the State Air Resources Board as an important tool to sequester massive amounts of carbon in California's soils to help immediately reverse global warming; and

WHEREAS, Communities, through their local governments, highway departments, soil conservation services, and public works professionals, can have significant impact on clean water, soil, climate change, and landfill diversion by using compost for public works projects; and

WHEREAS, International Compost Awareness Week is a multimedia publicity and educational initiative to showcase compost production and demonstrate compost use; and

WHEREAS, Composting creates green jobs and infrastructure for cities and states that implement composting programs; and

WHEREAS, The United States Composting Council, Canada, and the United Kingdom have declared the first week of May to be the annual International Composting Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Compost Producers is the California State Chapter of the United States Composting Council and manages International Composting Awareness Week in California; and

WHEREAS, The theme of 2016, "Compost: the Soil and Water Connection," is a great way to get the message out regarding compost and its many benefits to communities and property owners; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the week of May 1, 2016, through May 7, 2016, is hereby designated as Compost Awareness Week; and be it further

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