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ACR-153 Pet adoptions. (2017-2018)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 153

CHAPTER 72

Relative to pet adoptions.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 24, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 153, Santiago. Pet adoptions.

This measure would urge communities in California to implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and adoptable cats and dogs by 2025.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, In 1998, the State of California enacted a policy that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home and that no treatable animal should be euthanized; and

WHEREAS, The number of dogs and cats leaving California animal shelters alive has increased significantly over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated two million healthy and adoptable cats and dogs nationwide do not leave animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens have entered California animal shelters, but not all have found forever homes; and

WHEREAS, Handling animals in shelters costs California taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, A national survey revealed that almost 70 percent of citizens do not want unowned kittens or cats picked up and killed; and

WHEREAS, California is home to innovative leaders in shelter animal welfare that have invested heavily in developing cost-effective, life-saving strategies to reduce the intake of animals at shelters and to handle and place animals humanely; and

WHEREAS, Many leading California animal shelters have implemented new and innovative programs and policies to ensure healthy outcomes for homeless cats and dogs; and

WHEREAS, Those policies and programs include volunteer foster care networks; comprehensive adoption programs; medical and behavioral programs; public education and awareness programs; trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return or release programs; animal socialization programs; and many others; and

WHEREAS, Many local governments, nonprofit organizations, business entities, and other entities continue to invest significant efforts in improving resources, training, and opportunities for animal shelters across California so that every community in the state can make progress toward the state's 20-year-old commitment to save all adoptable or treatable animals; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That communities in California are urged to implement policies aimed at saving the lives of all healthy and adoptable cats and dogs by 2025; and be it further

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