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**SCR-70 National Eye Exam Month.** (2017-2018)

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**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70**

**CHAPTER 182**

Relative to National Eye Exam Month.

[ Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2017. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 70, Vidak. National Eye Exam Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of August 2017 as National Eye Exam Month in California and that the Legislature joins communities across our nation to increase awareness about the importance of eye health and safety.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Eye health is inherently linked to overall health; and

WHEREAS, Regular eye care can have a life-changing impact on preserving the vision of millions of people; and

WHEREAS, Roughly 11 million Americans over 12 years of age need vision correction; and

WHEREAS, Of the estimated 61 million adults in the United States at high risk for vision loss, only one-half have visited an eye doctor in the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS, Due to an aging population, the number of blind and visually impaired people in the United States is estimated to double by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Eighty percent of vision problems worldwide are avoidable or even curable; and

WHEREAS, A dilated eye exam is necessary to find eye diseases in the early stages when treatment to prevent vision loss is most effective; and

WHEREAS, Cataracts is the leading cause of vision loss in the United States, affecting more than 24.4 million Americans 40 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in American adults, affecting nearly 7.7 million Americans 40 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Glaucoma affects more than 2.7 million Americans 40 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Age-related macular degeneration affects nearly 2.1 million Americans 50 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Many eye diseases may cause vision damage and eventually blindness without the patient ever experiencing any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Early treatment is critical to prevent common eye diseases from causing permanent vision loss or blindness; and

WHEREAS, National Eye Exam Month raises awareness among the general public and reminds them of the need for regular, comprehensive eye examinations to detect eye health problems, general health issues, and vision difficulties; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature seeks to improve the health and vision of all Californians by educating them about the importance of healthy vision and the prevention of vision loss through regular, comprehensive eye examinations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of August 2017 as National Eye Exam Month in California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature joins communities across our nation to increase awareness about the importance of eye health and safety; and be it further

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