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SCR-82 Neonatal Nurses Day. (2017-2018)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 82

CHAPTER 160

Relative to Neonatal Nurses Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2017.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 82, Newman. Neonatal Nurses Day.

This measure would designate September 15, 2017, as Neonatal Nurses Day.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Neonatal nursing is a subspecialty of nursing that works with newborn infants with one or more of a variety of health problems. Although the neonatal period is defined as the first month of life, newborns with health problems are often sick for months. Neonatal nursing encompasses care for infants who experience problems shortly after birth as well as infants who experience long-term problems related to their prematurity or illness after birth; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 40,000 low birth weight infants are born annually in the United States. Over the past century, remarkable advances in neonatal care have been made, dramatically reducing the infant mortality rate. For example, the outlook for infants with birth weights of one kilogram has changed from 95 percent mortality to 95 percent survival both because of these advances in medicine and because of the dedicated care they receive from neonatal nurses; and

WHEREAS, Neonatal nurses are on the front line, providing around-the-clock care for these newborn infants, who are the most vulnerable patients with a variety of health challenges, including prematurity, birth defects, infection, cardiac malformations, and surgical problems; and

WHEREAS, Neonatal nurses make a positive difference in the lives of infants and their families and often serve as the voice of the smallest and sickest patients who do not have one of their own; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Neonatal Nurses celebrated the first Neonatal Nurses Day on September 15, 2000, to honor the nurses who care for the most vulnerable patients and their families; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates September 15, 2017, as Neonatal Nurses Day; and be it further

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