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ACR-69 “Parks Make Life Better!” Month. (2019-2020)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69

CHAPTER 82

Relative to “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 11, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 69, Eduardo Garcia. “Parks Make Life Better!” Month.

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as “Parks Make Life Better!”® Month.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Parks and recreation promote physical, emotional, and mental health and wellness through organized and self-directed fitness, play, and activity; and

WHEREAS, Parks support the economic vitality of communities by attracting new businesses, promoting community revitalization, increasing tourism, providing jobs, and generating revenue; and

WHEREAS, Parks foster the creation of memorable experiences through engaged programs, dynamic events, and new opportunities designed to get people involved in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Parks foster social cohesiveness in communities through events and programs that celebrate diversity, provide inclusive services, model compassion, promote social equity, and connect social networks, and by ensuring all people have access to the benefits of utilizing park space; and

WHEREAS, Parks and recreation support human development and endless learning opportunities that foster social, intellectual, physical, and emotional growth in people of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, The creation and maintenance of parks sustain and steward natural resources by protecting habitats and open space, connecting people to nature, and promoting the ecological function of parkland; and

WHEREAS, Parks strengthen community identity by providing facilities and services that can reflect and celebrate community character, heritage, culture, history, aesthetics, and landscape; and

WHEREAS, California’s rich and diverse park landscapes, from urban settings, such as Oakland and Los Angeles, to rural areas, such as the Eastern Coachella Valley, share transformative qualities that invite all ages, ethnicities, and demographics to share experiential moments in a physical space; and

WHEREAS, Access to parks, the coast, and public lands is fundamental to healthy, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Parks and outdoor programs not only provide a space for communities of color to strengthen their understanding and relationship with nature, but also provide opportunities for families and communities to connect with each other; and

WHEREAS, Parks can encourage healthy, joyful, and active living, promote healing, support learning, and improve environmental conditions in rural and urban communities alike; and

WHEREAS, Parks and recreation facilitate the resolution of community challenges and issues as demonstrated through the skills deployed by park professionals through after school programming, including informal play and youth athletic activities, which often results in reductions in juvenile crime; and

WHEREAS, Parks and recreation support safe, vibrant, attractive, and progressive communities that make life better through positive alternatives offered in their recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The California Park & Recreation Society has released a statewide public awareness campaign called "Parks Make Life Better!"® to inform the public of the many benefits of utilizing parks and related facilities, programs, and services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature declares the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"® Month; and be it further

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