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SCR-51 Music Changing Lives Month. (2019-2020)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51

CHAPTER 152

Relative to Music Changing Lives Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 51, Morrell. Music Changing Lives Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2019 as Music Changing Lives Month.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, While individuals of all ages enjoy and benefit from music, whether playing an instrument, singing, or simply listening, music has a unique impact on kids and teens. Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity, helps develop language and reasoning skills, and improves memory coordination and self-confidence; and

WHEREAS, The relationship between communities and their nonprofit organizations is a vital and interdependent one, deriving its strength from the civic involvement and dedication of all those who engage with those organizations, the many positive outcomes those organizations make possible, and the spirit of cooperation, accomplishment, and pride they foster within the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, One such laudable nonprofit organization, which has been inspired by the belief that music and art are fundamental components of culture and behavior, is Music Changing Lives (MCL), a Moreno Valley-based provider of music, art, tutoring, and other programs for students as a means of providing access to the arts and other forms of enrichment, in tandem with reinforcing in students the importance of education and staying in school in order to improve their chances of achieving a positive and successful future; and

WHEREAS, Josiah Bruny founded MCL in 1998, informed by the knowledge that many students in underserved communities have little or no access to the arts, and driven by the pressing need to empower minority and low-income students by making arts and other enrichment education available, when he created a one-room recording studio in the garage of his Moreno Valley home, where he taught young musicians how to record and copyright their own music; and

WHEREAS, MCL helps aspiring artists in underserved communities by making entrepreneurial and educational pathways to success available to youth who are susceptible to dropping out of school, gang violence, drugs, and crime, in addition to helping them develop emotional maturity through the creative arts; and

WHEREAS, As a result of perseverance, hard work, and key partnerships with the Moreno Valley Unified School District's administrators and Board of Trustees, as well as volunteers' contributions, MCL has become an effective organization operating in the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino out of three community centers and six schoolsites, where it offers incentives for

students' success through its programs that provide instruction in music and art, after school tutoring, mentoring, and instruction in financial literacy, and cultural experiences; and

WHEREAS, In addition, MCL students who successfully complete and meet all the requirements of a 21-week MCL performing arts program become eligible to showcase their talents as artists and musicians in an annual performance competition, the Music Changing Lives Showcase, which resulted in well-merited recognition for MCL in 2012 when it received the prestigious Daily Point of Light Award for having taken direct steps to help solve serious social problems in the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1998 as a dynamic, purpose-driven organization, MCL has exemplified the best attributes of community-focused nonprofit organizations that seek to ensure educational and career success for students in California's underserved communities; 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 May 2019 to be Music Changing Lives Month; and be it further

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