

**Introduced by Senators Beall and De León
(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Anderson, Bates, Block, Cannella,
Fuller, Galgiani, Glazer, Hancock, Hertzberg, Hill, Hueso, Lara,
Leno, Liu, McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Moorlach,
Pan, Roth, Stone, Wieckowski, and Wolk)**

January 15, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 98—Relative to developmental services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 98, as introduced, Beall. California’s community-based developmental services system: 50th anniversary.

This measure would recognize the year of 2016 as the 50th anniversary of California’s community-based developmental services system, and would reaffirm the commitment of the Legislature to support this system. This measure would declare the importance of ensuring a sustainable system that protects the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, the State of California piloted a
2 new approach to serving individuals with developmental disabilities
3 by enacting a bold new direction in public-private partnership that
4 fundamentally changed and dramatically improved the quality of
5 life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their
6 families, and that would become a model for the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, That partnership model was based on the premise
8 that the services required of a regional center are of such a special
9 and unique nature that they could not be satisfactorily provided

1 by state agencies and thus required private nonprofit entities to
2 contract with the state to meet the unique needs of the different
3 geographic regions; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1965, Assembly Bill 691 established a pilot
5 program that created two regional centers in 1966, one at
6 Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, later named Frank D. Lanterman
7 Regional Center, and another at San Francisco Aid Retarded
8 Children, Inc., later named Golden Gate Regional Center, with the
9 Regional Center of the East Bay formed later from the latter
10 project’s eastern region; and

11 WHEREAS, The pilot program was so successful that it was
12 turned into a permanent statewide program in 1969 by Assembly
13 Bill 225, known as the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services
14 Act; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1973, Assembly Bill 846 recast the act as the
16 Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and proposed
17 expansion of eligibility for regional center services to individuals
18 with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism, among other
19 developmental disabilities; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1977, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities
21 Services Act was passed, enumerating various rights to individuals
22 with developmental disabilities, enshrining the role of regional
23 centers as advocates for those rights, and creating an individualized
24 planning process that forms the core of the uniquely tailored
25 services and supports that each participating individual receives;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Regional centers provide service coordination to
28 ensure that the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities
29 are met through a combination of natural supports, generic services,
30 and the purchase of vendored services; and

31 WHEREAS, Community-based service providers offer an array
32 of services in each community to meet the unique needs of every
33 individual with a developmental disability, doing so at significant
34 cost savings to the State of California when compared to the cost
35 of institutional care; and

36 WHEREAS, California’s network of regional centers and service
37 providers serve nearly 300,000 individuals with developmental
38 disabilities who, as a result of the service, are able to live, work,
39 grow, and thrive in the community; and

1 WHEREAS, Years of underfunding have reduced access to
2 needed services and supports, have threatened the sustainability
3 of the system as a whole, have strained families, and have reduced
4 the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The active support and leadership of the Legislature
7 is a critical component of any and all efforts to reinvigorate and
8 renew the community-based developmental services system; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
12 year of 2016 as the 50th anniversary of California’s
13 community-based developmental services system; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the importance of
15 ensuring a sustainable system that protects the rights of individuals
16 with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion into
17 community life; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to
19 defend, support, and advance the community-based developmental
20 services system; and be it further

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