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Introduced by Senator Steinberg

August 20, 2007

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 65, as introduced, Steinberg. Adoption.

This measure would designate November 2007 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month and would encourage courts and communities to join in activities to expedite permanency for children who have been abused or neglected.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Each year in California nearly 485,000 reports are  
2 made of child abuse and neglect, and some 26,000 children enter  
3 foster care; and

4 WHEREAS, About 77,000 children in California live apart from  
5 their families in child welfare supervised out-of-home care; and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly half of the children in foster care in  
7 California have been away from their families in out-of-home care  
8 for two or more years; and

9 WHEREAS, Of the 36,000 children leaving foster care between  
10 July 2005 and June 2006, 55 percent were reunited with their  
11 families, 20 percent were adopted, and 12 percent were  
12 emancipated; and

13 WHEREAS, Local courts and communities throughout  
14 California have created programs promoting permanency that have  
15 resulted in a decrease in the number of children waiting for  
16 permanent, safe homes; and

1 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council is committed to working with  
2 the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and communities  
3 to achieve permanency for children who have been abused or  
4 neglected; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Blue Ribbon Commission on  
6 Children in Foster Care was appointed by the Judicial Council to  
7 recognize that the courts and their partners can improve safety,  
8 permanency, well-being, and fairness outcomes for children and  
9 families; and

10 WHEREAS, The Senate and the Assembly are committed to  
11 working together to improve outcomes for children in the child  
12 welfare system; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
14 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates  
15 November 2007 as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during  
16 which the courts and their local communities are encouraged to  
17 join in activities to expedite permanency for children who have  
18 been abused or neglected; and be it further

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