RN1521833 **AP 19**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER BARKER**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 19: SENIOR VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS.

EXISTING LAW, THE MELLO-GRANLUND OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT, REFLECTS THE POLICY MANDATES AND DIRECTIVES OF THE FEDERAL OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965, AS AMENDED, AND SETS FORTH THIS STATE’S COMMITMENT TO ITS OLDER POPULATION AND OTHER POPULATIONS SERVED BY THE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN A WIDESPREAD INFORMATION CAMPAIGN REGARDING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND HEALTH BENEFITS OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERING. THIS MEASURE WOULD ALSO MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD SOLICIT LOCAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FINANCIALLY AND BY HELPING TO SPREAD INFORMATION ABOUT SENIOR VOLUNTEERING. THIS MEASURE WOULD ALSO MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN INTERNET WEB SITE AND A BROCHURE THAT LIST SENIOR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES BY CITY.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

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WHEREAS, SECTION 9118 OF THE WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE PROVIDES THAT CALIFORNIA’S SENIORS POSSESS AN ABUNDANCE OF EXPERIENCE, PERSPECTIVE, WISDOM, AND GOODWILL THAT CALIFORNIANS FAIL TO CHERISH; AND

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA’S SENIORS REPRESENT ENORMOUS CIVIC POTENTIAL AND ARE UNDERUTILIZED; AND

WHEREAS, BY 2020, THE NUMBER OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL SURGE TO 13 MILLION, IN PART BECAUSE BABY BOOMERS ARE REACHING RETIREMENT AGE IN LARGE NUMBERS; AND

WHEREAS, THIS PROPOSAL WILL OFFER BABY BOOMERS AN ORGANIZED OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER AS THEY AGE; AND

WHEREAS, MANY CURRENT STUDIES SHOW THAT VOLUNTEERING CAN LEAD TO A LONGER LIFE WITH LESS DISABILITY AND DEPRESSION BECAUSE FEELING USEFUL IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE AS THEY AGE; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE, SENIORS WHO VOLUNTEER HAVE GREATER FUNCTIONAL ABILITY AND LOWER MORTALITY RATES THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT; AND

WHEREAS, INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERS CAN HAVE FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE SENIOR VOLUNTEERS CAN PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICES AND MEET OTHER NEEDS THAT STRAINED LOCAL BUDGETS CANNOT AFFORD; AND

WHEREAS, THIS PROPOSAL WILL LEAD TO AN OVERALL ENHANCEMENT OF SENIOR QUALITY OF LIFE; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2015 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN A WIDESPREAD INFORMATION CAMPAIGN REGARDING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND HEALTH BENEFITS OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERING BY USING LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS, NEWSPAPERS, COMMUNITY NEWS AND COMMENTARY INTERNET WEB SITES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BEHIND THE BADGE OC, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AT MEETINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT LOCAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING LOCAL HOSPITALS, BE SOLICITED TO SUPPORT THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FINANCIALLY AND BY HELPING TO SPREAD INFORMATION ABOUT SENIOR VOLUNTEERING; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING MAINTAIN AND UPDATE MONTHLY AN INTERNET WEB SITE WITH A CLEARINGHOUSE, AND PUBLISH MONTHLY A BROCHURE, THAT BOTH LIST SENIOR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES BY CITY; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.