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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**SP 2: OLDER ADULT EDUCATION: LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

EXISTING LAW ESTABLISHES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHANCELLOR OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION. THE PROGRAM REQUIRES THE CHANCELLOR AND THE SUPERINTENDENT, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TO DIVIDE THE STATE INTO ADULT EDUCATION REGIONS AND APPROVE ONE ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM IN EACH ADULT EDUCATION REGION, AS SPECIFIED. EXISTING LAW REQUIRES FUNDS APPORTIONED FOR THE PROGRAM TO ONLY BE USED FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, INCLUDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, OLDER ADULTS, THAT ARE PRIMARILY RELATED TO ENTRY OR REENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO ESTABLISH OLDER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COMMUNAL MEALS AND INSTRUCTION IN DIGITAL LITERACY AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND FALL PREVENTION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

SP 2: RELATING TO OLDER ADULT EDUCATION

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION OF OLDER ADULTS, RESIDENTS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, NOW REPRESENTS MORE THAN 16 PERCENT OF THE STATE'S POPULATION AND THIS PERCENTAGE CONTINUES TO GROW; AND

WHEREAS, BEFORE THE GREAT RECESSION, LOCALLY DELIVERED, COMMUNITY-BASED OLDER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS WERE WIDELY AVAILABLE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD SITES ACROSS CALIFORNIA; AND

WHEREAS, THESE PROGRAMS WERE DISMANTLED FOLLOWING THE GREAT RECESSION, AS FUNDING PRIORITIES SHIFTED TOWARD CAREER AND

WORKFORCE TRAINING, ELIMINATING A CRUCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR OLDER CALIFORNIANS; AND

WHEREAS, OLDER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS WERE ESSENTIAL TO HELPING OLDER ADULTS AGE IN PLACE, MAINTAIN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND ACCESS CRITICAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES; AND

WHEREAS, THE LOSS OF THESE PROGRAMS COINCIDED WITH A RAPID SHIFT TO DIGITAL AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES ACROSS ESSENTIAL SERVICES, LEAVING MANY OLDER ADULTS WITHOUT THE TRAINING NEEDED TO NAVIGATE WEB-BASED, APPLICATION-BASED, AND MOBILE PLATFORMS; AND

WHEREAS, WITHOUT TARGETED, AGE-APPROPRIATE EDUCATION, OLDER ADULTS FACE GROWING BARRIERS TO MEDICAL CARE, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, EMERGENCY ALERTS, SOCIAL CONNECTION, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION; AND

WHEREAS, THESE BARRIERS UNDERMINE THE INDEPENDENCE AND WELL-BEING OF OLDER ADULTS AND INCREASE RISKS OF ISOLATION, COGNITIVE DECLINE, AND POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES; AND

WHEREAS, SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS AMONG OLDER ADULTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES AS SERIOUS RISK FACTORS FOR HEART DISEASE, DEPRESSION, DEMENTIA, AND STROKE; AND

WHEREAS, A LOCALLY DELIVERED, AGE-APPROPRIATE OLDER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING, FALL PREVENTION, HEALTH SYSTEM NAVIGATION, AND COMMUNAL MEALS, WOULD HELP MITIGATE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, REDUCE SOCIAL ISOLATION, AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES, PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND HEALTHY AGING; AND

WHEREAS, WHILE SOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE NETWORKS MAINTAIN EMERITUS PROGRAMS THAT SERVE OLDER ADULTS AND THE CURRENT ADULT EDUCATION SYSTEM PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN GENERAL EDUCATION DEGREE (GED) PREPARATION, ENGLISH-AS-A-SECOND-LANGUAGE (ESL) INSTRUCTION, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, THIS PROPOSAL SEEKS TO REESTABLISH LOCALLY BASED, COMMUNITY-EMBEDDED PROGRAMMING THAT PROMOTES AGING IN PLACE, DIGITAL LITERACY, HEALTH SYSTEM NAVIGATION, AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT, AND THAT INCLUDES CONGREGATE MEALS, AS A MEANS OF COMBATING ISOLATION AND SUPPORTING OVERALL WELL-BEING. THESE ARE NEEDS THAT COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE NOT STRUCTURED OR RESOURCED TO ADDRESS AT SCALE; AND

WHEREAS, THE CALIFORNIA MASTER PLAN FOR AGING CALLS FOR CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS THAT SUPPORT INCLUSION, INDEPENDENCE, AND HEALTHY AGING; AND

WHEREAS, THIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT REQUEST NEW STATE FUNDING, DOES NOT CREATE A MANDATE, AND DOES NOT REDIRECT RESOURCES FROM EXISTING EDUCATION SYSTEMS OR COMMUNITY COLLEGES; AND

WHEREAS, THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE EXISTS TO ADVANCE LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OLDER CALIFORNIANS AND THIS PROPOSAL FULFILLS THAT MISSION BY RESTORING LOCAL AUTHORITY TO CREATE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS MODERN AGING CHALLENGES; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE TO REINSTATE LOCAL OLDER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS BASED ON THE SUCCESSFUL MODELS IN PLACE BEFORE THE GREAT RECESSION, WHILE ADAPTING THEM TO ADDRESS TODAY'S TECHNOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR SENATE AND THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2025 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE LEGISLATURE ENACT LEGISLATION EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO ESTABLISH OLDER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RELEVANT LOCAL ENTITIES SUCH AS SCHOOL DISTRICTS, LIBRARIES, FAITH INSTITUTIONS, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE AUTHORIZED ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, COMMUNAL MEALS AND INSTRUCTION IN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) DIGITAL LITERACY AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY.
- (2) FALL PREVENTION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.
- (3) NUTRITION.
- (4) HEALTH CARE NAVIGATION.
- (5) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.
- (6) CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVING AS A FISCAL AGENCY FOR AN AUTHORIZED ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM MAY USE LOCAL, PUBLIC HEALTH, OR PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS, AND SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO DIVERT FUNDING FROM OTHER ADULT EDUCATION OR K-12 PROGRAMS; 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
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND
THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.