


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: September 17, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Council File No.: 15-0002-S83
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No.: 15-08-0615

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz – O’Farrell) to SUPPORT HR 28 (Dababneh)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt the attached Resolution (Koretz – O’Farrell) to include in its 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 28 (Dababneh) and the effort to expand humane education in California schools.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Koretz – O’Farrell), introduced on August 4, 2015, states that the California Education Code require K-12 instruction that promotes and encourages kindness to pets and humane treatment of animals. The Resolution states that there are numerous academic studies that have established a correlation between childhood animal cruelty and interpersonal violence in adulthood.

The Resolution advises that one of the goals of humane education programs is to prevent violence by teaching empathy, compassion and respect for all living being and help children develop into caring, responsible citizens. According to the Resolution, the Education Code requests schools to adopt and employ instructional materials to pursue such goals but provides no compulsion for them to do so.

The Resolution states that HR 28 (Dababneh) has been introduced in the Legislature to call upon the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education to take immediate steps to ensure compliance with the Education Code relative to humane education in the State’s public school systems.

The Resolution requests that the City support HR 28.

BACKGROUND

Section 233.5 of the State Education Code require schools to teach kindness toward domestic pets and the humane treatment of living creatures. Humane education programs involve activities such as field trips, guest speakers, and classroom discussions on animal cruelty prevention, wildlife, animal safety, pet care, and other topics. Animal welfare agencies such as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Los Angeles (SPCALA) provide a variety of humane education programs within the City. SPCALA states that the goal of humane education is to decrease animal cruelty and interpersonal violence through the development of patience, empathy, and compassion in young people.

On July 15, 2015, HR 28 (Dababneh) was introduced in the Assembly relative to humane education. HR 28 states that California, along with several other states, requires public school students to be instructed in humane education. HR 28 further states that humane education

programs seek to prevent violence toward others by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all living beings. In addition, HR 28 states that non-profit organizations could assist California schools in complying with humane education requirements without burdening school budgets. According to HR 28, there are currently deficiencies in children's understanding of issues surrounding the humane treatment of animals which can contribute to animal cruelty, abandonment, and other negative outcomes.

HR 28 requests the following: (1) the education of students on principles of kindness and respect for animals as contemplated in the Education Code, (2) the implementation of "humane education days" and the involvement of nonprofits in humane education activities as set forth in the State Education Code, (3) that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction incorporate humane education in the State's core curriculum, and (4) that copies of HR 28 be provided to the State Senate, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Department of Education, and the author for distribution.

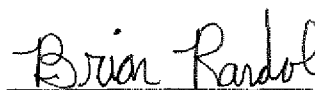
HR 28 is consistent with City policies and programs which ensure the humane treatment of animal life within the City.

Department Notified

Animal Services

Bill Status

July 15 Introduced
August 17 Referred to Committee on Education



Brian Randol

Analyst

Attachments: 1. Resolution (Koretz – O'Farrell)
 2. Text of HR 28

SMT:MF:PS:BMR

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS sections 233.5 (part of the "Hate Violence Prevention Act") and 60042 of the California Education Code require K-12 instruction that promotes and encourages kindness to pets and humane treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS there are numerous academic studies have established a correlation between childhood and other animal cruelty and interpersonal violence in adulthood; and

WHEREAS law enforcement agencies in such major cities as Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles and others have acknowledged that correlation and formed special enforcement units to combat animal cruelty; and

WHEREAS one of the overarching goals of humane education programs is to prevent violence by teaching empathy, compassion and respect for all living beings and help children develop into caring, responsible citizens; and


WHEREAS section 60042 asks schools to adopt and employ instructional materials to pursue such goals but provides no compulsion for them to do so, especially if it would burden the school's budget; and

WHEREAS there is evidence from the experiences of teachers or organizations who have conducted pilot humane education efforts that student knowledge and positive perceptions of animals are not as commonplace as they should be; and

WHEREAS, HR 28 has been introduced in the Legislature calling upon the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education to take immediate steps to ensure compliance with sections 233.5 and 60042 of the Education Code by the state's public school systems.

NOW, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 28 and the effort to expand humane education in California's schools.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



AUG 04 2015

ORIGINAL

House Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Members Dababneh and Calderon

July 15, 2015

House Resolution No. 28—Relative to humane education.

1 WHEREAS, Sections 233.5 (part of the Hate Violence
2 Prevention Act) and 60042 of the Education Code require
3 instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to promote
4 and encourage kindness to pets and humane treatment of animals;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The States of Florida, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey,
7 Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin have adopted
8 humane education laws similar to California's; and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous academic studies have established a
10 correlation between animal cruelty during childhood and
11 interpersonal violence in adulthood; and

12 WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies in major cities such as
13 Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles have acknowledged this
14 correlation and formed special enforcement units to combat animal
15 cruelty; and

16 WHEREAS, Humane education, such as that involving wildlife,
17 the animals' place in the overall environment, and the negative
18 impacts humans can have on them, including death and extinction,
19 can disrupt the cycle of animal and human abuse by decreasing a
20 child's potential to be abusive or neglectful toward animals and,
21 consequently, to promote prosocial behavior toward humans; and

22 WHEREAS, Humane education programs seek to prevent
23 violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for all

1 living beings and help children develop into caring, responsible
2 citizens; and

3 WHEREAS, Reputable nonprofit organizations are working to
4 implement humane education programs through in-classroom
5 presentations, teacher training, and the provision of relevant
6 resources, and these organizations could assist California schools
7 in complying with the Education Code’s humane education
8 provisions without burdening school budgets; and

9 WHEREAS, The experiences of these nonprofit organizations,
10 as well as other teachers or organizations that have conducted pilot
11 humane education efforts, provide evidence that student knowledge
12 and positive perceptions of animals is not as commonplace as it
13 should be; and

14 WHEREAS, Deficiencies in children’s understanding of the
15 role animals have in the economy of nature and in people’s lives
16 contribute to a proliferation in the number of wild and domestic
17 animals that are suffering from cruelty, abandonment, high animal
18 shelter euthanasia rates, and, in extreme circumstances, extinction;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts are undertaking steps
21 to rectify these deficiencies by promoting humane education and
22 implementing it in classrooms; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That
24 compliance with Education Code provisions should include
25 educating students on the principles of kindness and respect for
26 animals and observance of laws, regulations, and policies pertaining
27 to the humane treatment of animals, including wildlife and its
28 environment; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That actions such as implementing statewide or
30 districtwide “humane education days” and involving nonprofit
31 organizations in humane education activities with local faculty
32 and school administrators be considered for inclusion in compliance
33 efforts; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Superintendent of Public Instruction be
35 encouraged to ensure the incorporation of humane education in
36 the core curriculum; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
38 of this resolution to the State Senate, the Superintendent of Public

- 1 Instruction, the State Board of Education, the State Department of
- 2 Education, and the author for appropriate distribution.

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