

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 6, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 11, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 37

Introduced by Assembly Member Wiggins
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Cohn, Koretz, and
Lowenthal)
(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl and Perata)

February 22, 2002

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 37—Relative to major league baseball.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 37, as amended, Wiggins. Major league baseball.

This measure would declare the opposition of the California Legislature to any attempt to eliminate, move, or contract the Oakland Athletics or the Anaheim Angels. The measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to enact laws and procedures giving state and local governments and consumers the ability to protect their community investments in professional sports.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Major league baseball has been holding talks
- 2 regarding the issue of “contraction”; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Major league baseball’s definition of
- 4 “contraction” is specifically designed to eliminate several teams

1 from a secret master list in order to help make the league and its
2 member franchises more profitable; and

3 WHEREAS, California is the largest sports state in the nation
4 with 14 major league sports teams who combined, sold over 12
5 million event tickets in 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, Cities refurbish and redevelop their communities
7 around sports stadiums and arenas that cost municipal
8 governments hundreds of millions of dollars in public
9 indebtedness; and

10 WHEREAS, The Oakland Athletics have been rumored as
11 being the 4th team of major league baseball's secret contraction
12 list, ~~while the Anaheim Angels are lower on the same list,~~
13 ~~speculated as the 7th or 8th team on the list;~~ and

14 WHEREAS, The traditions embodied by the Oakland Athletics
15 and their green and gold uniforms, have become part of northern
16 California's landscape for over 30 years, making them a historical
17 treasure because they bring pride and enjoyment to millions, and
18 as such, again attracted over 2 million fans during the 2001 season;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Anaheim Angels and their current owners
21 play in a ~~new~~ *remodeled* stadium that has helped enhance
22 community pride while rejuvenating the team; and

23 WHEREAS, The San Diego Padres have become a vital part of
24 California's sports landscape thanks to deep community and sports
25 roots that were established when they were members of the Pacific
26 Coast League; and

27 WHEREAS, The traditions established by the world famous
28 "Dodger Blue," in both New York and California, were
29 instrumental in bringing the excitement of major league baseball
30 to California; and

31 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Giants and their black and
32 orange uniforms have brought years of excitement to northern
33 California and their newly constructed stadium is receiving praise
34 from players, leagues, and the media from around the country; and

35 WHEREAS, In the history of major league baseball, the
36 Athletics Franchise has won more World Series Championships
37 than any other team, except for the New York Yankees *and the St.*
38 *Louis Cardinals*, and are closely followed on that list by the
39 Dodgers and Giants franchises; *and*



1 *WHEREAS, Increasing player salaries, which has been linked*
2 *as a contributing reason for the need of contraction, along with*
3 *constant reports of labor stoppages, are driving many fans away*
4 *from the game and threatening the future of America's pastime;*
5 now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
7 *jointly, That because of the pride, history, enjoyment, and*
8 *economic benefit that California's teams bring to the fans and their*
9 *communities, the Legislature of the State of California hereby*
10 *respectfully opposes, and respectfully memorializes the Congress*
11 *of the United States and political leaders in California to oppose,*
12 *any attempts to eliminate, move, or contract the Oakland Athletics*
13 *from northern California or the Anaheim Angels from southern*
14 *California; and be it further*

15 *Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California, in the*
16 *interest of California's residents, hereby respectfully memorialize*
17 *the Congress and the President of the United States to enact laws*
18 *and procedures giving state and local governments and consumers*
19 *the ability to protect their community investments in professional*
20 *sports; and be it further*

21 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
22 *of this resolution to the President of the United States, to each*
23 *Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the*
24 *United States, to each city council and county board of supervisors*
25 *that has a professional sports team in their jurisdiction, and to the*
26 *Office of the Commissioner of Baseball.*

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