

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 11

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 98

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 11—Relative to the Public Employees' Retirement System.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 30, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 11, Dymally. Public Employees' Retirement System: Sudan.

This measure would encourage the Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System, whenever feasible and consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities, to encourage companies in which employee retirement funds are invested and that are doing business in Sudan, as identified by the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, to act responsibly and not take actions that promote or otherwise enable human rights violations in the Sudan.

WHEREAS, The government of Sudan and the southern opposition signed a peace agreement on Sunday, January 9, 2005, in Kenya, Africa; and

WHEREAS, The peace agreement is expected to put a stop to Sudan's cruel treatment of southerners; and

WHEREAS, The rebel south will not have to redeploy an army consisting of children; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State Colin Powell, on behalf of the United States, with Ambassador John C. Danforth, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, assisted in negotiating the peace agreement; and

WHEREAS, Stopping the conflict in western Darfur is not part of the peace agreement, however; and

WHEREAS, The Sudan government is suspected of a policy of genocide in western Darfur; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for the United States and the United Nations to continue to put pressure on the Sudanese government to stop supplying arms to the Janjaweed; and

WHEREAS, The State of California is deeply concerned over the poor human rights situation in Sudan; and

WHEREAS, The State of California calls for stepped-up international efforts to end the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region, and concurs with United States policy, which has officially declared that genocide is ongoing in the Darfur region of Sudan; and

WHEREAS, Despite significant pressure from the United States government, the government of Sudan has not taken all the necessary actions to disassociate itself fully from the fighting in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, The 2002 Machakos Protocol, signed by both sides in the civil war in Sudan, has recognized that “Sudan is a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-lingual country,” and that there “shall be freedom of belief, worship and conscience for followers of all religions or beliefs or customs and no one shall be discriminated against on such grounds” once a peace agreement is signed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature encourages the Public Employees’ Retirement System and the California State Teachers’ Retirement System, whenever feasible and consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities, to encourage companies in which employee retirement funds are invested and that are doing business in Sudan, as identified by the Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, to act responsibly and not take actions that promote or otherwise enable human rights violations in the Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.