

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member ~~Spitzer~~ Members *Spitzer and Eng*

April 23, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to hate crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 51, as amended, Spitzer. Hate Crimes Awareness Month.

This measure would designate June 2007 as Hate Crimes Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Hate crimes are acts of terror meant to intimidate
2 and cause fear in our communities to deter the free exercise of
3 enjoyment of any rights or privileges secured by the United States
4 and the California Constitutions, the laws of the United States, and
5 the laws of the State of California; and

6 ~~WHEREAS, The Department of Justice reported 1491 hate~~
7 ~~crimes in 2003 and 1409 hate crimes in 2004; and~~

8 *WHEREAS, The California Department of Justice reported 1,409*
9 *hate crimes in 2004, and 1,397 in 2005; and*

10 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice's National
11 Criminal Victimization Survey estimates that an annual average
12 of 210,000 hate crime victimizations occurred nationally from July
13 2000 to December 2003; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice's National
15 Criminal Victimization Survey reveals that 56 percent of hate
16 crimes are not reported to the police; and

1 WHEREAS, The underreporting of hate crimes is the result of
2 a variety of factors that include the victim's lack of knowledge
3 about the criminal justice system, fear of retaliation, linguistic and
4 cultural barriers, immigration status, and prior negative experience
5 with governmental agencies; and

6 WHEREAS, California needs to remain vigilant in promoting
7 tolerance to address growing white supremacist movements, such
8 as the Aryan Nation and Aryan Brotherhood, in California that
9 recruit our youth through music, the Internet, and other media and
10 information outlets; and

11 WHEREAS, The Anti-Defamation League reports that hate rock
12 concerts are organized yearly in southern California by labels like
13 White Heat Productions and Condemned Records which feature
14 bands that encourage hate violence in their lyrics; and

15 ~~WHEREAS, The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that the~~
16 ~~number of active hate crime organizations increased from 45 active~~
17 ~~hate organizations in 2004 to 52 active hate organizations in 2005;~~
18 ~~and~~

19 *WHEREAS, The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that the*
20 *number of active hate crime organizations increased from 52 active*
21 *hate organizations in 2005 to 63 active hate organizations in 2006;*
22 *and*

23 WHEREAS, The 36 million Californians make up one of the
24 most diverse populations in the United States where 43.8 percent
25 identify as White, 35.2 percent identify as Latino, 6.6 percent
26 identify as Black, 11.1 percent identify as Asian, 0.7 percent
27 identify as Native American, 0.3 percent identify as Native
28 Hawaiian, 1.9 percent identify as multiethnic, 12.3 percent identify
29 as people with disabilities, 50.5 percent identify as female and
30 26.8 percent identify as foreign-born Americans; and

31 WHEREAS, All Californians should condemn acts of violence
32 and prejudice on the basis of race, ethnic background, national
33 origin, religious belief, sex, age, disability, or sexual orientation;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring,* That the month of June 2007 is hereby
37 designated as Hate Crimes Awareness Month to educate
38 community members on the proper reporting of hate crimes and
39 to increase awareness about diversity and tolerance to improve
40 public safety; and be it further

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

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