

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 42

**Introduced by Assembly Members Fong and Hill
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jones)**

February 27, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 42—Relative to homelessness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 42, as introduced, Fong. Joint Committee on Homelessness in California.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee on Homelessness in California, to study and investigate issues relating to homelessness, which would consist of 5 Assembly Members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and 5 Senators appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The measure would prescribe the duties and powers of the committee, and would authorize the committee to act until November 30, 2010.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Homelessness is one of the most pervasive issues
2 facing our country and California today; and
3 WHEREAS, Widespread homelessness was not evident until
4 the 1980s; and
5 WHEREAS, For many years of our Nation’s history the great
6 majority of our residents had permanent housing regardless of
7 income, age, or disability; and
8 WHEREAS, There are renewed efforts by the federal
9 government and many cities and counties to adopt plans to end
10 chronic homelessness; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2005, The National Alliance to End
2 Homelessness estimated that 744,313 people were without
3 permanent housing in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Today approximately 170,270 Californians are
5 without a home; and

6 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are 80,000 to 95,000
7 homeless children in California; and

8 WHEREAS, The vast majority of homeless families consist of
9 a single mother and her children; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 23 percent of homeless adults are veterans,
11 and many more veterans who live in poverty are at risk of
12 becoming homeless; and

13 WHEREAS, California has the highest average rate of
14 homelessness in the country; and

15 WHEREAS, Rising rents, rapidly declining numbers of
16 low-income rental units, and declining availability of federal
17 housing programs contribute to homelessness; and

18 WHEREAS, Forty percent of people living in homelessness are
19 former foster children, according to the Children's Advocacy
20 Institute; and

21 WHEREAS, Inequality between the classes has been growing
22 more in California than in the Nation as a whole, and the increasing
23 gap between the rich and the poor is due more to deteriorating
24 incomes among the poor than to rising incomes at the top of the
25 income distribution; and

26 WHEREAS, The majority of the homeless are men unattached
27 to other family members; and

28 WHEREAS, A large proportion of the homeless has spent some
29 time in jail or prison; and

30 WHEREAS, The homeless population suffers disproportionately
31 from mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, and extreme social
32 isolation; and

33 WHEREAS, The deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill, drug
34 and alcohol addiction, and the cost of housing contribute to
35 homelessness; and

36 WHEREAS, More than 200 communities across the country
37 have begun to plan to end homelessness with federal funding
38 support; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Joint Committee on Homelessness
3 in California is hereby established; and be it further

4 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Homelessness in
5 California shall consist of 10 members, who shall include five
6 Assembly Members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
7 and five Senators appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules;
8 and be it further

9 *Resolved,* That the joint committee and its members shall have
10 and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon
11 investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of
12 the Senate and Assembly as those rules are adopted and amended
13 from time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and
14 made applicable to the committee and its members; and be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Homelessness in
16 California shall study and investigate issues including, but not
17 limited to, the training of law enforcement agencies regarding
18 homelessness, education efforts on identifying homeless population
19 and the coordination among programs serving the homeless, the
20 development of appropriate housing services, and obtaining better
21 data regarding the number of homeless; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Homelessness in
23 California shall submit a report to the Legislature on September
24 30, 2010, including its findings and recommendations; and be it
25 further

26 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Homelessness in
27 California is authorized to act until November 30, 2010.