
Introduced by Senator Alquist

December 17, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6—Relative to the Prefecture of Athens.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 6, as introduced, Alquist. Prefecture of Athens: sister state relationship.

This measure would extend, on behalf of the people of the state, an invitation to the people of the Prefecture of Athens, Greece, to join in a sister state relationship.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The sister city-state concept was inaugurated by
2 the President of the United States in 1956 to establish greater
3 friendship and understanding between the people of the United
4 States and other nations through the medium of direct personal
5 contact; and

6 WHEREAS, All succeeding Presidents have endorsed this
7 program conducted for the broad purpose of exchanging ideas
8 between the citizens of the United States, including this state, and
9 the peoples of other nations; and

10 WHEREAS, The Greek Prefecture of Athens, including the
11 Greek capital and its surrounding region, and the State of California
12 share many geographic, agricultural, academic, artistic, and
13 economic similarities, such as moderate climates, beautiful
14 landscapes, active seismic belts, important agricultural sectors,
15 strong levels of tourism, and world-class winemaking; and

1 WHEREAS, California and the Greek Prefecture of Athens
2 share a keen interest in educational excellence and a history of
3 academic excellence dating back to the ancient Greek philosophers
4 of Athens who have inspired centuries of academic inquiry that
5 continues today at the University of Athens and in the California
6 State University and the University of California systems, two of
7 the largest and most renowned public higher education systems in
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, A sister state relationship between California and
10 the Greek Prefecture of Athens would facilitate the exchange of
11 environmental protection information and other scientific and
12 technical knowledge, especially in the field of earthquake
13 preparedness, and would provide a forum for sharing legislative
14 solutions; and

15 WHEREAS, The people of California have a longstanding
16 admiration for the grand history of Greek culture and mythology,
17 having selected in 1849 the Goddess Athena to be included on the
18 California State Seal as a representation of California's strength,
19 independence, and wisdom; and

20 WHEREAS, Athens is widely considered the cradle of western
21 civilization and fostered the ideals of democratic citizenship
22 embraced by the people of California; and

23 WHEREAS, The Greeks pioneered the first means for the
24 transport of water dating back to the first known aqueduct, the
25 Eupalinian aqueduct in the sixth century B.C.E. This technology
26 has evolved over the ages, and today the California aqueduct
27 system allows for California's vast agricultural network and
28 civilization; and

29 WHEREAS, Strong commercial ties now exist between the
30 citizens of the Prefecture of Athens and the residents of this state;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, The people-to-people program initiated by
33 President Eisenhower in 1956 and endorsed by President Kennedy
34 in 1961, was designed to bring the people of the world closer
35 together in the interest of peace and prosperity; and

36 WHEREAS, A sister state relationship between Athens and
37 California is in the best interest of a cooperative relationship
38 between the two states involved; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California,

1 on behalf of the people of the state, extends an invitation to the
2 people of the Prefecture of Athens to join in a sister state
3 relationship in order to encourage and facilitate mutually beneficial
4 educational, economic, and cultural exchanges and programs to
5 lead to a more indelible and lasting friendship; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
7 this resolution to Ioannis Sgouros, Prefect of Athens, to Kefalidou
8 Haroula, Subprefect of Athens, to the Governor of California, to
9 each member of Congress from the State of California, and to the
10 presiding officers of the legislative houses of the other states of
11 the United States.

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