

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 14, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 6

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 amended, 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

1 landscapes, active seismic belts, important agricultural sectors,
2 strong levels of tourism, and world-class winemaking; and

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

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

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, Strong commercial ties now exist between the
32 citizens of the *Greek* Prefecture of Athens and the residents of this
33 state; and

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

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

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California,
3 on behalf of the people of the state, extends an invitation to the
4 people of the Prefecture of Athens, *Greece*, to join in a sister state
5 relationship in order to encourage and facilitate mutually beneficial
6 educational, economic, and cultural exchanges and programs to
7 lead to a more indelible and lasting friendship; and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
9 this resolution to Ioannis Sgouros, Prefect of Athens, to Kefalidou
10 Haroula, Subprefect of Athens, to the Governor of California, to
11 each member of Congress from the State of California, and to the
12 presiding officers of the legislative houses of the other states of
13 the United States.