

**Introduced by Senator Corbett**

June 30, 2010

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 35—Relative to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 35, as introduced, Corbett.

This measure would commemorate the 20th anniversary of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, encourage all Californians to recognize and celebrate the important historical significance of the act, and reaffirm the Legislature's commitment to, and urge Congress to reaffirm its commitment to, the civil and constitutional rights of Americans with disabilities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, July 26, 2010, marks the 20th anniversary of the
- 2 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and
- 3 WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was
- 4 one of the most significant pieces of civil rights legislation since
- 5 the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and
- 6 WHEREAS, This landmark legislation ensures that more than
- 7 58 million Americans receive the same basic freedoms of
- 8 independence, equal access, freedom of choice, and inclusion
- 9 afforded to every citizen of our country, and established the world's
- 10 first comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of
- 11 disability; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Prior to the passage of the Americans with
- 13 Disabilities Act, people with disabilities were excluded and
- 14 segregated from public life; denied a public education; subject to

1 discrimination in housing, employment, and access to public spaces  
2 and resources; and forcibly institutionalized; and

3 WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed  
4 because existing federal and state laws were insufficient to address  
5 the pervasive discrimination that existed for Americans with  
6 disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, People with disabilities campaigned for  
8 empowerment and the right to live independently in the  
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, They fought for legal protection from  
11 discrimination; the right to receive quality treatment or services;  
12 the right to refuse treatment or services; due process in all  
13 professional or governmental decisionmaking affecting them; equal  
14 access to public transportation, employment, state and local  
15 government programs and services, and public accommodations;  
16 and, most fundamentally, opposition to forced institutionalization  
17 and, correspondingly, the right to services to support living in the  
18 community; and

19 WHEREAS, These advancements were based on the principle  
20 of self-determination, involving individual choices in daily living,  
21 and a collective political voice on the part of disability communities  
22 in the formulation of public policies and programs that affect them,  
23 expressed in the political demand: “Nothing About Us, Without  
24 Us”; and

25 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities  
26 Act with overwhelming bipartisan majorities after two years of  
27 extensive and exhaustive hearings detailing the staggering isolation  
28 faced by people with disabilities, and President George H.W. Bush  
29 signed the bill into law on July 26, 1990; and

30 WHEREAS, Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the  
31 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act both highlights the  
32 achievements that people with disabilities have gained since  
33 passage of the act and recognizes the work left to be done to ensure  
34 that Americans with disabilities are fully able to participate in  
35 society; and

36 WHEREAS, Californians are committed to living in a state  
37 where we are united by our belief in the dignity of every individual,  
38 by our responsibility to advance the common good, and by our  
39 understanding that what we choose to do in our own lifetime  
40 matters; now, therefore, be it

1     *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
2     *California, jointly,* That the Legislature commemorates and honors  
3     the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with  
4     Disabilities Act of 1990; recognizes and appreciates the work of  
5     the countless individuals and organizations in the disability rights  
6     community who fought tirelessly to advance the cause of people  
7     with disabilities, leading to the passage and enactment of the  
8     Americans with Disabilities Act; encourages all Californians to  
9     recognize and celebrate the important historical significance of  
10    the act; and reaffirms, and urges Congress to reaffirm, its  
11    commitment to promoting the civil and constitutional rights of  
12    Americans with disabilities, and to strongly support the purposes  
13    and goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and be it further  
14    *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
15    this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
16    States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
17    Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
18    Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
19    States.