

Introduced by Senator Walters

February 2, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to the American flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 67, as introduced, Walters. Relative to the American flag.

This measure would honor the 50th anniversary of the flying of the current American flag and would encourage all Californians to celebrate the occasion with appropriate activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For more than two centuries, the American flag
2 has been a banner of hope for generation after generation of
3 Americans; and
4 WHEREAS, The flag is a symbol of a country that has grown
5 from 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states; and
6 WHEREAS, Continental Congress member Francis Hopkinson
7 designed the first Stars and Stripes. The first flag of the United
8 States was authorized by Congressional Resolution on June 14,
9 1777, resolving that it be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and
10 white, and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field,
11 representing a new constellation; and
12 WHEREAS, Since the first American flag, several congressional
13 acts and Presidential Executive orders have altered the shape,
14 design, and arrangement of the flag, and allowed for additional
15 stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new
16 state; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1794, Congress passed an act changing the
2 American flag so that it contained 15 stripes and 15 stars; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1818, President Monroe signed legislation
4 requiring that the American flag have 13 stripes and a star for each
5 state in the union. Stars for newly added states would be applied
6 to the flag on July 4 of the following year; and

7 WHEREAS, Flag makers were able to use imaginative designs
8 to accommodate new stars on the flag until 1912, when President
9 Taft issued an Executive order that established rows of stars as the
10 standard design; and

11 WHEREAS, The 48-star American flag, represented by the
12 traditional 13 stripes and six rows of eight stars, was the official
13 flag from 1912 until 1959; and

14 WHEREAS, On January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally granted
15 statehood and the 49-star American flag, represented by the
16 traditional 13 stripes and seven rows of seven stars, became the
17 official flag when it was raised over Independence Hall on July 4,
18 1959; and

19 WHEREAS, Hawaii became this country's 50th state on August
20 21, 1959, requiring that a new 50-star flag be designed as the
21 official American flag; and

22 WHEREAS, President Eisenhower unveiled the new 50-star
23 flag on August 21, 1959, at a ceremony commemorating Hawaii's
24 statehood; and

25 WHEREAS, The 50-star flag, the current Stars and Stripes,
26 became the official American flag on July 4, 1960, with a design
27 of 13 stripes and 50 stars, represented by five rows of six stars
28 alternating with four rows of five stars; and

29 WHEREAS, Despite the numerous designs of the American
30 flag, they have all stood for the United States Constitution, the
31 American way of life, our collective past achievements, and our
32 dreams for the future; and

33 WHEREAS, On July 4, 2010, the 50-star American flag will
34 celebrate its 50th anniversary as the official Stars and Stripes,
35 representing the longest period that any fixed flag design has been
36 used; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature honors the 50th
39 anniversary of the flying of the current American flag and

1 encourages all Californians to celebrate the occasion with
2 appropriate activities; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of
4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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