

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Solorio

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Allen, Ammiano, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Hill, Hueso, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Morrell, Nestande, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

August 30, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to law enforcement programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 17, as amended, Solorio. Law enforcement: federal funding.

This measure would urge Congress and the President of the United States to increase funding for specified law enforcement and crime prevention programs and to pay the full costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals, as provided.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The federal government provides leadership and
- 2 services in funding administration and criminal justice policy

1 development to support the State of California to achieve safer
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice, through
4 the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) which is a
5 component of the Office of Justice Programs, administers various
6 law enforcement program initiatives; and

7 WHEREAS, BJA provides support for law enforcement, courts,
8 corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention
9 initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system; and

10 WHEREAS, It is recognized that most of the responsibility for
11 crime control and prevention falls to law enforcement officers in
12 states, cities, and neighborhoods and the federal government can
13 be effective in these areas only to the extent that it can enter into
14 partnerships with these officers in the State of California; and

15 WHEREAS, Various law enforcement program initiatives such
16 as the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program, the
17 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the Southwest Border
18 Prosecution Initiative, and the State Criminal Alien Assistance
19 Program are carried out in partnership with local law enforcement
20 officers; and

21 WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes that these
22 programs have resulted in major innovations in crime prevention,
23 including drug courts, gang prevention strategies, and prisoner
24 reentry programs; and

25 WHEREAS, The federal State Criminal Alien Assistance
26 Program was created in 1994 for the purpose of reimbursing states
27 for the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals; and

28 WHEREAS, Federal law provides that the State Criminal Alien
29 Assistance Program provide federal payments to states and
30 localities that incur costs for incarcerating undocumented criminals;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, There are almost 17,000 self-reported
33 undocumented criminals in the California prison system; and

34 WHEREAS, In the 2009–10 fiscal year, the cost per incarcerated
35 individual in California was \$52,363 each year; and

36 WHEREAS, In the 2009–10 fiscal year, it cost the State of
37 California over \$885 million to house these undocumented
38 criminals; and

39 WHEREAS, In the 2009–10 fiscal year, the State of California
40 was reimbursed from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

1 in an amount equal to only 11 cents for every dollar spent to house
2 these undocumented criminals; and

3 WHEREAS, Budget cuts for public funding for law enforcement
4 programs at both the national and state level may have a
5 devastating effect on the viability of crime prevention programs;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, At a time when adverse economic conditions may
8 lead to increased crime, it is important that the federal government
9 increase funding to support our law enforcement officers, who risk
10 their lives daily to keep Americans safe; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
12 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges Congress
13 and the President of the United States to increase funding for these
14 law enforcement and crime prevention programs and to pay the
15 full costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
18 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
19 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
20 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
21 States.