

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 26**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski**

January 25, 2012

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 26—Relative to United States’ Visa Waiver Program.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 26, as introduced, Wieckowski. United States’ Visa Waiver Program: Poland.

This measure would call upon the President of the United States to lift the restrictions currently in place that prevent the Republic of Poland from being admitted to the Visa Waiver Program.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Since 2005, the U.S. Department of State has been  
2 conducting discussions with the Republic of Poland so that the  
3 nation may be admitted to the United States’ Visa Waiver Program.  
4 That program allows citizens of specific countries to travel to the  
5 United States for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days  
6 with a passport, without having to obtain a visa; and  
7 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland on April 15, 1991,  
8 unilaterally granted permission for United States citizens to travel  
9 in Poland without a visa; and  
10 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland and the United States in  
11 1999 became formal allies through membership in the North  
12 Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of Poland share  
2 historical experience of fighting for freedom, democracy, and  
3 universal values; and

4 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland has a very high ranking  
5 in development, human rights, and standard of living, which are  
6 all criteria shared by countries eligible for the visa entry program,  
7 and due to their country's strong economy, citizens of Poland who  
8 have visas do not overstay them; and

9 WHEREAS, No Polish citizen to date has been proven to  
10 support, be associated with, or be engaged in, any form of a  
11 terrorist activity; and

12 WHEREAS, The Republic of Poland has actively participated  
13 in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Iraqi reconstruction, shedding  
14 blood along with American soldiers; and

15 WHEREAS, The President of the United States and other high  
16 ranking officials have described Poland as one of America's closest  
17 allies in Europe; and

18 WHEREAS, The countries that currently participate in the Visa  
19 Waiver Program include: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium,  
20 Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany,  
21 Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,  
22 Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San  
23 Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,  
24 Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom; now,  
25 therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
27 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature recognizes the importance  
28 of making the Republic of Poland eligible for the Visa Waiver  
29 Program; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the President of the  
31 United States to lift the restrictions currently in place that prevent  
32 the Republic of Poland from being admitted to the Visa Waiver  
33 Program; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
35 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
36 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority  
37 Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of  
38 the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States

- 1 Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California
- 2 in the Congress of the United States.

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