

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 56

Introduced by Assembly Members Hill and Cook
(Principal coauthor: Senator Walters)

May 5, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to the American flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 56, as introduced, Hill. Relative to the American flag.

This measure would honor the 51st 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

1 stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new
2 state; and

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, On January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally granted
17 statehood and the 49-star American flag, represented by the
18 traditional 13 stripes and seven rows of seven stars, became the
19 official flag when it was raised over Independence Hall on July 4,
20 1959; and

21 WHEREAS, Hawaii became this country's 50th state on August
22 21, 1959, requiring that a new 50-star flag be designed as the
23 official American flag; and

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

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

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

35 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2011, the 50-star American flag will
36 celebrate its 51st anniversary as the official Stars and Stripes,
37 representing the longest period that any fixed flag design has been
38 used; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
40 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature honors the 51st*

1 anniversary of the flying of the current American flag and
2 encourages all Californians to celebrate the occasion with
3 appropriate activities; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide copies
5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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