

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 68

**Introduced by Assembly Members Portantino, Ammiano, Galgiani,
Gatto, and Hill**

(Principal coauthors: Senators Cannella, La Malfa, and Wyland)

June 8, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 68—Relative to the Italian American Legislator Project.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 68, as amended, Portantino. Italian American Heritage in California.

This measure would continue designation and observance of the month of October as Italian American Heritage Month. This measure would also encourage the Legislature to continue the Italian American Legislator Project and welcome the exhibit “The Italian American Legislator Project of 2011: A Legacy of Service to the California Legislature” to the State Capitol Building in October 2011 and encourage all Californians, through the K–12 curriculum and otherwise, to learn about the history, role, and contributions of Italian Americans to the State of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, People of Italian descent have participated in
- 2 American politics and government since the beginning of United
- 3 States history, and have served as Members of the California State

1 Legislature almost since its first session held on December 15,
2 1849; and

3 WHEREAS, “The Italian American Legislator Project of 2011:
4 A Legacy of Service to the California Legislature” (the Legacy
5 Project) was recently launched to identify and compile a list of
6 persons of Italian American heritage who have served as Members
7 of the houses of the California Legislature. This project was
8 initiated by the office of Assembly Member Anthony Portantino
9 and the California Italian American Task Force with assistance
10 from the California Research Bureau, the Office of the Chief Clerk,
11 the Italian American Museum of Los Angeles, Lawrence DiStasi,
12 former-Senate President pro Tempore David Roberti, other
13 ~~previously-serving~~ *previously serving* Italian American legislators,
14 and the staff of various ~~currently-serving~~ *currently serving* Italian
15 American legislators; and

16 WHEREAS, The Legacy Project survey has already identified
17 51 Italian Americans who are former or current members of the
18 California Senate and Assembly; this is the first time that a
19 comprehensive list of Italian American legislators has been
20 compiled; and

21 WHEREAS, Compiling the tentative Legacy Project list reveals
22 a complex but highly successful journey of Italian Americans in
23 the United States and California. A names-only search provided
24 limited assistance for this project, making this project partly reliant
25 on oral recollections, intergenerational confirmations, and
26 documents not readily accessible to the public. Many names were
27 altered deliberately or by error at Ellis Island or by government
28 and school personnel. Some names were changed during times of
29 open discrimination to gain employment, social acceptance, protect
30 children, or avoid stereotyping, and other names were simply
31 changed through marriage; and

32 WHEREAS, The following Italian American legislators have
33 been identified by surveyors who believe that further searches are
34 needed to find other persons not listed or that further confirmation
35 is needed to positively affirm the heritage of those persons listed
36 with an asterisk:

- 37 1. Tom Ammiano (Assembly, 2008–Present)
- 38 2. John Badaracco (Assembly, 1919, 1921, 1923)
- 39 3. Bill Bagley (Assembly, 1961–74)
- 40 4. Frank Belotti (Assembly, 1951–72)

- 1 5. Patty Berg (Mazzarelli) (Assembly, 2003–08)
- 2 6. Paula Boland (Assembly, 1990–96)
- 3 7. ~~*Frank~~ Frank G. Bonelli (Assembly, 1954–58)
- 4 8. William Bonelli (1930–32)
- 5 9. Tom Bordonaro (Assembly, 1994–98)
- 6 10. *Douglas Bosco (Assembly, 1978–80)
- 7 11. Marilyn Cerolini Brewer (Assembly, 1994–2000)
- 8 12. Anthony Caminetti (Assembly, 1883, 1897, 1899; Senate,
- 9 1887, 1889, 1907–13)
- 10 13. Joseph Canciamilla (Assembly, 2000–06)
- 11 14. Victor Canepa (Assembly, 1913, 1915; Senate, 1917–21,
- 12 1927, 1929)
- 13 15. Anthony Cannella (Senate, 2010–Present)
- 14 16. Sal Cannella (Assembly, 1990–96)
- 15 17. August Cavagnaro (Assembly, 1901)
- 16 18. Eugene A. Chappie (Assembly, 1965–75)
- 17 19. Larry Chimbole (Assembly, 1976–78)
- 18 20. Dominic Cortese (Assembly, 1981–96)
- 19 21. Vic Fazio (Assembly, 1975–78)
- 20 22. Dr. William Filante (Assembly, 1979–92)
- 21 23. Cathleen Galgiani (Assembly, 2006–Present)
- 22 24. Mike Gatto (Assembly, 2010–Present)
- 23 25. Arlen Gregorio (Senate, 1970–78)
- 24 26. Jerry Hill (Assembly, 2008–Present)
- 25 27. Wally Knox (Assembly, 1994–2000)
- 26 28. Robert Lagomarsino (Senate, 1961–74)
- 27 29. Doug LaMalfa (Assembly, 2002–08; Senate, 2010–Present)
- 28 30. Paul J. Lunardi (Assembly, 1959–63; Senate, 1963–66)
- 29 31. Ennio Martinelli (Senate, 1909, 1911)
- 30 32. Bob Moretti (Assembly, 1965–74)
- 31 33. George Moscone (Senate, 1967–76)
- 32 34. Roger Niello (Assembly, 2004–10)
- 33 35. Egisto Palmieri (Senate, 1885)
- 34 36. Joseph Pedrotti (Assembly, 1921, 1923; Senate, 1925–29,
- 35 1931)
- 36 37. Don Perata (Assembly, 1996–98; Senate, 1998–2008)
- 37 38. Anthony Pescetti (Assembly, 1999–2002)
- 38 39. George Plescia (Assembly, 2002–08)
- 39 40. Anthony Portantino (Assembly, 2006–Present)
- 40 41. Paul Priolo (Assembly, 1967–80)

- 1 42. David Roberti (Assembly, 1967–71; Senate, 1971–94)
- 2 43. James Rogan (Assembly, 1994–96)
- 3 44. Don Sebastiani (Assembly, 1980–86)
- 4 45. Augustus D. Splivalo (Assembly, 1867)
- 5 46. Alfred Taliaferro (Assembly, 1852; Senate, 1857, 1858)
- 6 47. Mike Thompson (Senate, 1990–98)
- 7 48. Charles P. Vicini (Assembly, 1917–19)
- 8 49. Catherine Marinelli Wright (Assembly, 1980–92; Senate,
- 9 1993–2000)
- 10 50. Mark Wyland (Assembly, 2000–06; Senate, 2006–Present)
- 11 51. *Louis Zocchi (Assembly, 1895)
- 12 WHEREAS, Italian American legislators have left a legacy of
- 13 political leadership and accomplishments. Two Italian American
- 14 legislators, David Roberti (1980–94) and Don Perata (2004–08),
- 15 have served as Presidents pro Tempore of the Senate, and one
- 16 Italian American legislator, Bob Moretti (1971–74), has served as
- 17 Speaker of the Assembly; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Eight Italian Americans currently serve in the
- 19 California Legislature, three in the Senate and five in the Assembly;
- 20 and
- 21 WHEREAS, California’s Italian American legislators have
- 22 worked together to represent the interests of the Italian American
- 23 people of California, and have authored several pieces of legislation
- 24 seeking to include in the K–12 curriculum the history, role, and
- 25 contributions of Italian Americans, and resolutions designating
- 26 October as Italian American Heritage Month, and have sponsored
- 27 annual exhibits in the State Capitol capturing over 180 years of
- 28 Italian American history in California; and
- 29 WHEREAS, Columbus Day, observed on October 12 of each
- 30 year, is a holiday of special significance to Italian Americans in
- 31 the United States and California, and the designation of October
- 32 as Italian American Heritage Month is recognition of the significant
- 33 impact Italian Americans have made to the rich cultural fabric of
- 34 California and the lives of all its residents; and
- 35 WHEREAS, The 2000 Census counted 1,450,885 Italian
- 36 Americans in California, constituting 4.3 percent of the state’s
- 37 population and the third largest Italian American population in the
- 38 United States; and
- 39 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have made enormous
- 40 contributions to the economic and cultural development and success

1 of California, and Italian American legislators have made important
2 contributions to the political life of California through their
3 dedication to public service; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the month of October continue to be
6 designated Italian American Heritage Month; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Legislature maintain and continue to update
8 the Legacy Project and continue annual observances of Italian
9 American Heritage Month; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Legislature welcomes the exhibit “The Italian
11 American Legislator Project of 2011: A Legacy of Service to the
12 California Legislature” to the State Capitol Building during the
13 month of October; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians,
15 through the K–12 curriculum and otherwise, to learn about the
16 history, role, and contributions of Italian Americans to the State
17 of California.

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