

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 22, 2011

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**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins,
Bill Berryhill, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley,
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Yamada)*

(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
 4 Legislature almost since its first session held on December 15,
 5 1849; and

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

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

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

1 children, or avoid stereotyping, and other names were simply
2 changed through marriage; and

3 WHEREAS, The following Italian American legislators have
4 been identified by surveyors who believe that further searches are
5 needed to find other persons not listed or that further confirmation
6 is needed to positively affirm the heritage of those persons listed
7 with an asterisk:

- 8 1. Tom Ammiano (Assembly, 2008–Present)
- 9 2. John Badaracco (Assembly, 1919, 1921, 1923)
- 10 3. Bill Bagley (Assembly, 1961–74)
- 11 4. Frank Belotti (Assembly, 1951–72)
- 12 5. Patty Berg (Mazzarelli) (Assembly, 2003–08)
- 13 6. Paula Boland (Assembly, 1990–96)
- 14 7. Frank G. Bonelli (Assembly, 1954–58)
- 15 8. William Bonelli (1930–32)
- 16 9. Tom Bordonaro (Assembly, 1994–98)
- 17 10. *Douglas Bosco (Assembly, 1978–80)
- 18 11. Marilyn Cerolini Brewer (Assembly, 1994–2000)
- 19 12. Anthony Caminetti (Assembly, 1883, 1897, 1899; Senate,
20 1887, 1889, 1907–13)
- 21 13. Joseph Canciamilla (Assembly, 2000–06)
- 22 14. Victor Canepa (Assembly, 1913, 1915; Senate, 1917–21,
23 1927, 1929)
- 24 15. Anthony Cannella (Senate, 2010–Present)
- 25 16. Sal Cannella (Assembly, 1990–96)
- 26 17. August Cavagnaro (Assembly, 1901)
- 27 18. Eugene A. Chappie (Assembly, 1965–75)
- 28 19. Larry Chimbole (Assembly, 1976–78)
- 29 20. Dominic Cortese (Assembly, 1981–96)
- 30 21. Vic Fazio (Assembly, 1975–78)
- 31 22. Dr. William Filante (Assembly, 1979–92)
- 32 23. Cathleen Galgiani (Assembly, 2006–Present)
- 33 24. Mike Gatto (Assembly, 2010–Present)
- 34 25. Arlen Gregorio (Senate, 1970–78)
- 35 26. Jerry Hill (Assembly, 2008–Present)
- 36 27. Wally Knox (Assembly, 1994–2000)
- 37 28. Robert Lagomarsino (Senate, 1961–74)
- 38 29. Doug LaMalfa (Assembly, 2002–08; Senate, 2010–Present)
- 39 30. Paul J. Lunardi (Assembly, 1959–63; Senate, 1963–66)
- 40 31. Ennio Martinelli (Senate, 1909, 1911)

- 1 32. Bob Moretti (Assembly, 1965–74)
- 2 33. George Moscone (Senate, 1967–76)
- 3 34. Roger Niello (Assembly, 2004–10)
- 4 35. Egisto Palmieri (Senate, 1885)
- 5 36. Joseph Pedrotti (Assembly, 1921, 1923; Senate, 1925–29,
- 6 1931)
- 7 37. Don Perata (Assembly, 1996–98; Senate, 1998–2008)
- 8 38. Anthony Pescetti (Assembly, 1999–2002)
- 9 39. George Plescia (Assembly, 2002–08)
- 10 40. Anthony Portantino (Assembly, 2006–Present)
- 11 41. Paul Priolo (Assembly, 1967–80)
- 12 42. David Roberti (Assembly, 1967–71; Senate, 1971–94)
- 13 43. James Rogan (Assembly, 1994–96)
- 14 44. Don Sebastiani (Assembly, 1980–86)
- 15 45. Augustus D. Splivalo (Assembly, 1867)
- 16 46. Alfred Taliaferro (Assembly, 1852; Senate, 1857, 1858)
- 17 47. Mike Thompson (Senate, 1990–98)
- 18 48. Charles P. Vicini (Assembly, 1917–19)
- 19 49. Catherine Marinelli Wright (Assembly, 1980–92; Senate,
- 20 1993–2000)
- 21 50. Mark Wyland (Assembly, 2000–06; Senate, 2006–Present)
- 22 51. *Louis Zocchi (Assembly, 1895)
- 23 WHEREAS, Italian American legislators have left a legacy of
- 24 political leadership and accomplishments. Two Italian American
- 25 legislators, David Roberti (1980–94) and Don Perata (2004–08),
- 26 have served as Presidents pro Tempore of the Senate, and one
- 27 Italian American legislator, Bob Moretti (1971–74), has served as
- 28 Speaker of the Assembly; and
- 29 WHEREAS, Eight Italian Americans currently serve in the
- 30 California Legislature, three in the Senate and five in the Assembly;
- 31 and
- 32 WHEREAS, California’s Italian American legislators have
- 33 worked together to represent the interests of the Italian American
- 34 people of California, and have authored several pieces of legislation
- 35 seeking to include in the K–12 curriculum the history, role, and
- 36 contributions of Italian Americans, and resolutions designating
- 37 October as Italian American Heritage Month, and have sponsored
- 38 annual exhibits in the State Capitol capturing over 180 years of
- 39 Italian American history in California; and

1 WHEREAS, Columbus Day, observed on October 12 of each
2 year, is a holiday of special significance to Italian Americans in
3 the United States and California, and the designation of October
4 as Italian American Heritage Month is recognition of the significant
5 impact Italian Americans have made to the rich cultural fabric of
6 California and the lives of all its residents; and

7 WHEREAS, The 2000 Census counted 1,450,885 Italian
8 Americans in California, constituting 4.3 percent of the state’s
9 population and the third largest Italian American population in the
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Italian Americans have made enormous
12 contributions to the economic and cultural development and success
13 of California, and Italian American legislators have made important
14 contributions to the political life of California through their
15 dedication to public service; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians,
27 through the K–12 curriculum and otherwise, to learn about the
28 history, role, and contributions of Italian Americans to the State
29 of California.