

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 85

Introduced by Assembly Member Mendoza

January 4, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 85—Relative to India Republic Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 85, as introduced, Mendoza. India Republic Day.

This measure would proclaim January 26, 2012, as India Republic Day in the State of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Republic Day is one of the three national holidays
2 of India and is celebrated every year on January 26. It was the
3 Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress at midnight of
4 December 31, 1929, to January 1, 1930, inclusive, that the tricolor
5 flag was unfurled by the nationalists and a pledge was taken that
6 on January 26 every year, “Republic Day” would be celebrated
7 and that the people would unceasingly strive for the establishment
8 of a sovereign democratic republic. The professed pledge was
9 successfully redeemed on January 26, 1950, when the Constitution
10 of India framed by the Constituent Assembly of India came into
11 force, although independence from British rule was already
12 achieved on August 15, 1947; and

13 WHEREAS, Although India obtained its independence on
14 August 15, 1947, it did not yet have a permanent constitution.
15 Instead, its laws were based on the modified colonial Government
16 of India Act 1935, and the country was a dominion, with George

1 VI as head of state and Earl Mountbatten as Governor General of
2 India. On August 28, 1947, the drafting committee was appointed
3 to draft a permanent constitution, with Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
4 as chairman. While India's Independence Day celebrates its
5 freedom from British rule, Republic Day celebrates the coming
6 into force of its constitution; and

7 WHEREAS, A draft constitution was prepared by the committee
8 and submitted to the Constituent Assembly of India on November
9 4, 1947. The assembly met, in sessions open to the public, for 166
10 days, spread over a period of two years, 11 months, and 18 days
11 before adopting the constitution. After many deliberations and
12 some modifications, the 308 members of the assembly signed two
13 handwritten copies of the document, one each in Hindi and English,
14 on January 24, 1950. Two days later, the Constitution of India
15 became the law of all the Indian lands. The Constitution of India
16 was passed on November 26, 1949, but it came into effect
17 completely only on January 26, 1950. Following elections on
18 January 21, 1950, Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of
19 India. The Indian National Congress and other parties had been
20 celebrating January 26 as a symbol of independence, even before
21 India actually became independent; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, Republic Day is celebrated with much
23 enthusiasm all over the country and especially in New Delhi, the
24 capital of India where celebrations commence at the presidential
25 level. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder
26 of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the
27 freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of
28 sovereignty of the country. The president awards medals of bravery
29 to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage
30 in the field and also the civilians who have distinguished
31 themselves by their different acts of valor in situations; and

32 WHEREAS, To mark the importance of this occasion, every
33 year a grand parade is held in the capital, from the Rajghat, along
34 the Vijaypath. The different regiments of the army, the navy, and
35 the air force march past in all their finery and official decorations.
36 Even the horses of the cavalry are attractively caparisoned to suit
37 the occasion. The crème of N.C.C. cadets, selected from all over
38 the country consider it an honor to participate in this event, as do
39 the school children from various schools in the capital. They spend
40 many days preparing for the event and no expense is spared to see

1 that every detail is taken care of, from their practice for the drills,
2 the essential props, and their uniforms; and

3 WHEREAS, The parade is followed by a pageant of spectacular
4 displays from the different states of the country. These moving
5 exhibits depict scenes of activities of people in those states and
6 the music and songs of that particular state accompany each
7 display. Each display brings out the diversity and richness of the
8 culture of India and the whole show lends a festive air to the
9 occasion. The parade and the ensuing pageantry is telecast by the
10 national television and is watched by millions of viewers in every
11 corner of the country; and

12 WHEREAS, The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings
13 the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every
14 part of the country is represented on this occasion, which makes
15 Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims January
19 26, 2012, as India Republic Day in the State of California; and be
20 it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.