

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 14, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 8

Introduced by Senator Yee

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jeffries)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Jeffries, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jones, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

February 14, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Sunshine Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as amended, Yee. Sunshine Week.

This resolution would designate March 13 through March 19, 2011, as Sunshine Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week began in Florida in 2002, when
- 2 the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors launched Sunshine

1 Sunday in response to efforts by some of that state’s legislators to
2 create scores of exemptions to the state’s public records law; and
3 WHEREAS, Several states followed Florida’s lead and, in June
4 2003, the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) hosted a
5 Freedom of Information Summit in Washington, D.C.; and

6 WHEREAS, With an inaugural grant from the Knight
7 Foundation, ASNE launched Sunshine Week in March 2005, and
8 it continues to be celebrated each year in mid-March to coincide
9 with National Freedom of Information Day and President James
10 Madison’s birthday on March 16; and

11 WHEREAS, Although originally created by journalists, Sunshine
12 Week is about the public’s right to know what its government is
13 doing and why; and

14 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is now a national initiative to
15 promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and
16 freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic
17 groups, libraries, nonprofit entities, schools, and others interested
18 in the public’s right to know; and

19 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower
20 people to play an active role in all levels of government, and to
21 give people access to information that makes their lives better and
22 their communities stronger; and

23 WHEREAS, The coverage, commentaries, and activities
24 promoting open government during Sunshine Week have led to
25 tangible, meaningful changes to people’s lives, and the laws that
26 govern them; and

27 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is increasing public awareness and
28 people are playing more of a role in the actions that affect their
29 communities. People are learning what kinds of information they
30 have a right to see, how and where to obtain that information, and
31 what to do if someone tries to prevent them from accessing it; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
35 13 through March 19, 2011, as Sunshine Week and encourages all
36 Californians to participate in appropriate activities relating to open
37 government and access to public information; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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