

**Introduced by Senator Berryhill
(Coauthor: Senator Cannella)**

August 6, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to wildlife resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 103, as introduced, Berryhill. Wildlife resources: federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

This measure would acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and recognize, among others, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for its leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources throughout the nation.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were
- 2 among the first conservationists who realized America's fish and
- 3 wildlife resources and their habitats were in peril and could not
- 4 sustain unregulated harvest and further habitat destruction; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Hunters and anglers took it upon themselves to
- 6 support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife,
- 7 established game and fish agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and
- 8 their habitats, and supported special fishing and hunting license
- 9 fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy
- 10 natural resources for future generations; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The State of California then and now recognizes
- 12 that the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident

1 wildlife within the state's borders resides in the state fish and
2 wildlife agencies; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were
4 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife
5 populations, hunters and anglers supported excise taxes on firearms,
6 ammunition, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing
7 equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and
8 enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

9 WHEREAS, These efforts became known as the federal Wildlife
10 and Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 75 years ago with
11 the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937,
12 and then in 1950, was bolstered with the passage of the Federal
13 Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, which was further expanded
14 with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration
15 Act in 1984; and

16 WHEREAS, The passage of each federal act was predicated on
17 the knowledge that hunters and anglers have a vested interest in
18 the conservation of fish and wildlife and in the healthy
19 sustainability of wildlife habitats; and

20 WHEREAS, The combined contribution of the federal Wildlife
21 and Sport Fish Restoration Program to state fish and wildlife
22 agencies exceeds \$13 billion since 1939, more than any other single
23 conservation effort in American history; and

24 WHEREAS, The funds raised under the federal Wildlife and
25 Sport Fish Restoration Program have helped conserve our fish and
26 wildlife resources and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation
27 for more than half a century. These investments, which help create
28 jobs while protecting California's natural treasures, are particularly
29 important in these tough economic times; and

30 WHEREAS, The cooperative partnership among industry,
31 hunters, anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, hunting and fishing
32 organizations, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and
33 California's Department of Fish and Game has resulted in a
34 successful model of fish and wildlife management that includes
35 the conservation of land, wildlife, fish, and better opportunities
36 for hunters, fishermen, and others to enjoy California's fish and
37 wildlife resources; and

38 WHEREAS, In California, the Federal Aid in Wildlife
39 Restoration Act of 1937, as amended, has been a stable source of
40 funding that has been instrumental in the efforts to reestablish elk

1 in suitable habitat that has resulted in a statewide population of
2 about 3,900 Tule elk in 21 separate herds throughout California;
3 the annual Central Valley Angler Survey, funded by \$1,120,000
4 from the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program,
5 which leads to scientifically set harvest quotas, ensuring the
6 conservation of salmon while supporting the \$167,000,000
7 economic contribution from the annual salmon fishery enjoyed by
8 500,000 anglers; and

9 WHEREAS, Successful wildlife restoration projects in California
10 have included the protection and maintenance of over 285,000
11 acres of wildlife areas with the annual support of \$9,000,000 from
12 the federal Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, as amended, that
13 create public access for hunting and fishing and for wildlife
14 surveillance and reporting; and

15 WHEREAS, The annual support from the federal Wildlife and
16 Sport Fish Restoration Program in California has provided the
17 foundation for conservation over 75 years. These investments have
18 proven to be the example of conservation in the great State of
19 California and have directly resulted in the increased awareness
20 of conservation needs; and

21 WHEREAS, The habitat stewardship hunters and anglers
22 promote on their own lands and waters, combined with the annual
23 funding generated by hunting and fishing, and the actions of the
24 conservation organizations have become the cornerstone of our
25 nation's fish and wildlife conservation model; now, therefore, be
26 it

27 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
29 acknowledges the 75th anniversary of the federal Wildlife and
30 Sport Fish Restoration Program and recognizes the many hunters,
31 anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, as well as, state fish and
32 wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
33 for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish,
34 wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and nongame, to
35 the abundance we see today; and

36 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
37 this resolution to the Director of Fish and Game, the Secretary of
38 the Natural Resources Agency, and to the author for distribution,
39 so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions
40 from anglers, hunters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish

- 1 and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife
- 2 Service on behalf of our nation's natural resources.

O