

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 12

Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto

February 6, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to minimum wage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 12, as amended, Gatto. Minimum wage.

This measure would call upon the President of the United States *and the United States Trade Representative* to include raising foreign minimum wages in future treaties, trade agreements, and other international protocols. It would also call upon the Senate of the United States to decline to ratify these agreements that fail to include these provisions.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Unemployment remains too high in the United
2 States, with one significant cause being the “outsourcing” of quality
3 trades, manufacturing, and service industry jobs to nations where
4 workers are paid miniscule wages for their labor; and
5 WHEREAS, In an age of “globalization,” many American
6 industries have suffered due to competition from foreign employers
7 who pay wages well below the federal minimum wage; and
8 WHEREAS, A standardized international minimum wage, or
9 even a staggered annual increase in foreign minimum wages, would
10 ensure that American workers and firms compete on a “level
11 playing field” in the global market; and

1 WHEREAS, A rising minimum wage in foreign countries would
2 raise the standard of living for billions of people worldwide and
3 would open new markets to American exports; and

4 WHEREAS, A guarantee of fair wages and employment rights
5 would curb the exploitation of workers; and

6 WHEREAS, The advent of a minimum wage in developing
7 countries would eliminate the need for some American foreign aid
8 and assist in reducing poverty and creating more stable societies
9 less prone towards wars or terrorism; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States has a long history of stimulating
11 beneficial policies abroad when negotiating treaties and trade
12 agreements, including, inter alia, demanding free elections,
13 protecting American patents, prohibiting nuclear testing, requiring
14 currency stabilization, and requiring environmental safeguards, as
15 a condition for peaceable relations, open trade, and robust
16 commerce with the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States is in a unique position to affect
18 global policies by utilizing its treaty powers to require foreign
19 nations to stop exploiting low wages for competitive advantage;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
22 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully calls upon the
23 President of the United States *and the United States Trade*
24 *Representative* to include raising foreign minimum wages in future
25 treaties, trade agreements, and other international protocols; and
26 that the Senate of the United States Congress decline to ratify such
27 agreements that fail to include such provisions; and be it further

28 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
30 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to the ~~Chief Clerk~~
31 *Secretary* of the United States Senate, for distribution among
32 members of the United States Senate.