

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Williams)**

December 3, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as introduced, Alejo. Immigration.

This measure would specify principles for repairing the nation's broken immigration system, and would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take a comprehensive and workable approach to improving the nation's immigration system using those principles.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded by
2 immigrants who came from around the world seeking a better life;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken. It
5 separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security
6 programs, contributes to labor abuses, and creates long backlogs
7 for families seeking naturalization. Further, it neglects the hard
8 work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented
11 immigrants are in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, California has one of the biggest populations of
13 immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

1 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly
2 one-half of California’s population and contribute to local
3 economies. In the San Francisco Bay area, immigrants contribute
4 22 percent of the region’s economic activity. In Santa Clara
5 County, immigrants contribute 44 percent of the region’s economic
6 activity. In Fresno, immigrants contribute 27 percent of the region’s
7 economic activity. In Orange County, immigrants contribute 33
8 percent of the region’s economic activity. In the Inland Empire,
9 immigrants contribute 28 percent of the region’s economic activity.
10 In San Diego, immigrants contribute 25 percent of the region’s
11 economic activity. In Los Angeles County, immigrants contribute
12 43 percent of the region’s economic activity. In Kern County,
13 immigrants contribute 24 percent of the region’s economic activity.
14 In San Joaquin County, immigrants contribute 29 percent of the
15 region’s economic activity. In Santa Barbara County, immigrants
16 contribute 25 percent of the region’s economic activity. In Tulare
17 County, immigrants contribute 32 percent of the region’s economic
18 activity; and

19 WHEREAS, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented
20 immigrants that reside in California live with family members who
21 are legal United States residents and citizens; and

22 WHEREAS, One in eleven workers in California is an
23 undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,
24 productive, and vital part of the state’s growing economy, diverse
25 cultural fabric, and changing demographics. Immigrant worker
26 populations in California are concentrated in a variety of sectors,
27 including leisure and hospitality, construction, food and agriculture,
28 service, transportation, and textile sectors. Many immigrants
29 throughout the state have even started their own small businesses;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The integration of immigrants and the development
32 of a comprehensive approach to fix our broken immigration system
33 are critical to ensure that our state continues to have a strong
34 economy; and

35 WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have
36 a positive impact on the economy because moving workers out of
37 a vulnerable underground status produces both short- and long-term
38 economic gains. Doing so will strengthen the ability of working
39 families to become more productive, with higher levels of income

1 and job-generating consumption, and will increase their net
2 contributions to tax revenues; and

3 WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have
4 a positive impact on the economy in the short and long term.
5 Recent data released by the University of California, Los Angeles,
6 indicates that legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants
7 working and living in the United States would create roughly \$1.5
8 trillion in additional GDP growth over 10 years and increase wages
9 for all workers; and

10 WHEREAS, A study released by the University of Southern
11 California estimates that the immediate and long-term effects of
12 enacting comprehensive immigration reform would result in a \$16
13 billion boost to California's economy; and

14 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional
15 immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of
16 fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law; and

17 WHEREAS, A comprehensive approach to repair our broken
18 immigration system, one that works for all communities and
19 families in America, should include the following elements: (1) a
20 plan for providing legal status with a path to citizenship to
21 undocumented immigrants who are working and living in the
22 United States, which should include the AgJOBS Act of 2011 and
23 DREAM Act of 2011, (2) improvement of the economic situation
24 of all workers in the United States, (3) the reform of visa programs
25 in order to keep families together, protect workers' rights, and
26 ensure that future immigration is regulated and controlled rather
27 than illegal and chaotic, (4) the implementation of smart, effective
28 enforcement measures targeted at the worst violators of
29 immigration and labor laws, (5) prioritizing immigrant integration
30 into our communities and country, and (6) respect for the due
31 process rights of everyone in the United States; now, therefore, be
32 it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
34 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and
35 the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and
36 workable approach to solving our nation's broken immigration
37 system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it
38 further

39 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
40 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the

- 1 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
- 2 to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
- 3 of the United States.

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