

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo
**(~~Coauthor:~~ ~~Coauthors:~~ ~~Assembly Member~~ ~~Members~~ *Bonta, Campos,*
Chesbro, Fong, Roger Hernández, Levine, Medina,
V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Ting, Williams, and Yamada)
(*Coauthors: Senators Correa, De León, Padilla, and Yee*)**

December 3, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as amended, Alejo. Immigration.

This measure would specify ~~principles~~ *tenets* 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~~ *humane and just* approach to improving the nation's immigration system using those ~~principles~~ *tenets*.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 *WHEREAS, The United States of America is a nation of values,*
- 2 *founded on the principles that all men and women are created*
- 3 *equal, and the promise of freedom for all; and*
- 4 *WHEREAS, We are a nation of immigrants, who believe in the*
- 5 *promise of freedom and opportunity; and*
- 6 *WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken,*
- 7 *antiquated, and not meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It*
- 8 *separates families, including same-sex couples and families, and*
- 9 *creates long backlogs for families who are seeking reunification.*

1 *Further, it neglects the hard work and financial contributions*
2 *immigrants make to our country; and*

3 *WHEREAS, Since 2008, more than 1.6 million immigrants have*
4 *been deported, and one in every 10 American children faces the*
5 *threat of the deportation of a parent; and*

6 *WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented*
7 *immigrants are in the United States, and California has the largest*
8 *population of immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and*

9 *WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly*
10 *one-half of California's population and live and work in all 58*
11 *counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los*
12 *Angeles, and greater San Francisco areas; and*

13 *WHEREAS, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented*
14 *immigrants who reside in California live with family members who*
15 *are legal United States residents and citizens; and*

16 *WHEREAS, One in 10 workers in California is an undocumented*
17 *immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant, productive, and vital*
18 *part of the state's growing economy; and*

19 *WHEREAS, Immigrants are essential in keeping the American*
20 *economy strong; from technology programmers in the Silicon*
21 *Valley to restaurant owners and workers, immigrants are filling*
22 *an intrinsic need in the labor force; and*

23 *WHEREAS, Agricultural workers have been performing very*
24 *important and difficult work to maintain America's food supply,*
25 *and have a role of ensuring that Americans have safe and secure*
26 *agricultural products to sell and consume; and*

27 *WHEREAS, Students should not be punished for their*
28 *immigration status but instead should be given recognition for*
29 *their sacrifice, hard work, and determination; and*

30 *WHEREAS, The United States can do a better job of attracting*
31 *and keeping the world's best and brightest. A comprehensive*
32 *immigration reform should also grant immigrants who have*
33 *received a Ph.D. or master's degree in science, technology,*
34 *engineering, or mathematics from an American university the*
35 *opportunity to invest in and contribute to this great nation. For*
36 *the future of our economy, it makes no sense to educate the world's*
37 *future innovators and entrepreneurs only to ultimately force them*
38 *to leave our country at the moment they are most able to contribute*
39 *to our economy; and*

1 *WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional*
2 *immigration system will uphold our nation’s basic values of*
3 *fairness, equality, as well as opportunity, and*

4 *WHEREAS, A comprehensive, as well as compassionate,*
5 *approach to solve our broken immigration system should be one*
6 *that works for all communities and families in America; and*

7 *WHEREAS, A just immigration reform must ensure that it*
8 *reflects one of our basic values—that we all are created*
9 *equal—thus immigration reform must recognize each immigrant’s*
10 *full humanity; and*

11 *WHEREAS, A proposal must be comprised of the following*
12 *tenets that achieve all of the following: (1) include a direct road*
13 *map to full citizenship that is inalienable, affordable, and inclusive*
14 *for the 11 million immigrants who are currently living in the*
15 *shadows; (2) reform of immigration enforcement programs that*
16 *separate families and ensures that family unification systems are*
17 *strengthened; (3) upgrade the current visa programs in order to*
18 *have a legal workforce and a system that better enforces labor*
19 *protections; and (4) uphold due process as well as the inherent*
20 *rights of all immigrants; now, therefore, be it*

21 **RESOLVED, BY THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE OF**
22 **THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, JOINTLY, That the Legislature**
23 **urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take**
24 **a humane and just approach to solving our nation’s broken**
25 **immigration system; and be it further**

26 **RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit**
27 **copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President**
28 **of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,**
29 **to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and**
30 **Representative from California in the Congress of the United**
31 **States, to the Governor of California, and to the author of this**
32 **resolution.**

33 ~~**WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded by**~~
34 ~~**immigrants who came from around the world seeking a better life;**~~
35 ~~**and**~~

36 ~~**WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken. It**~~
37 ~~**separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security**~~
38 ~~**programs, contributes to labor abuses, and creates long backlogs**~~
39 ~~**for families seeking naturalization. Further, it neglects the hard**~~

1 work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country;
2 and

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

5 WHEREAS, California has one of the biggest populations of
6 immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

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

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

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

37 WHEREAS, The integration of immigrants and the development
38 of a comprehensive approach to fix our broken immigration system
39 are critical to ensure that our state continues to have a strong
40 economy; and

1 ~~WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have~~
2 ~~a positive impact on the economy because moving workers out of~~
3 ~~a vulnerable underground status produces both short- and long-term~~
4 ~~economic gains. Doing so will strengthen the ability of working~~
5 ~~families to become more productive, with higher levels of income~~
6 ~~and job-generating consumption, and will increase their net~~
7 ~~contributions to tax revenues; and~~

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

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

19 ~~WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional~~
20 ~~immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of~~
21 ~~fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law; and~~

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

38 ~~*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*~~
39 ~~*California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and*~~
40 ~~*the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and*~~

1 ~~workable approach to solving our nation's broken immigration~~
2 ~~system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it~~
3 ~~further~~

4 ~~*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies~~
5 ~~of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the~~
6 ~~United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and~~
7 ~~to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress~~
8 ~~of the United States.~~