

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 100**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Bocanegra, *Brown*,  
Campos, Cooley, Daly, Eggman, *Fong*, Garcia, Gonzalez,  
Jones-Sawyer, V. Manuel Pérez, Rendon, Rodriguez, Stone,  
Wieckowski, and Williams)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Correa, Hueso, Lara, Leno, Monning, and Torres)**

February 19, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 100—Relative to relations with  
El Salvador.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 100, as amended, Alejo. Relations with El Salvador.

This measure would encourage the Governor's Office of Business  
and Economic Development to work in coordination with the Legislature  
to develop comprehensive trade promotion and foreign investment  
activities that encourage stronger economic ties with El Salvador.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, California is currently the eighth largest economy
- 2 in the world and depends on international trade, which can be
- 3 enhanced by the economic development of foreign trade partners;
- 4 and

1 WHEREAS, More than 4.4 million jobs in California depend  
2 on international trade, with trade-related employment being one  
3 of the strongest growing and well-paying labor sectors in the state;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, El Salvador has an emerging global economy with  
6 close cultural and demographic ties to California, providing the  
7 state a unique opportunity to engage in binational economic  
8 development activities; and

9 WHEREAS, Salvadoran-Americans constitute the second largest  
10 Latino community in California, totaling over one million  
11 throughout the state and 6 percent of all immigrants nationwide;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Salvadoran-American workers in California support  
14 our economy with indispensable labor, which in turn provides  
15 remittances to families in El Salvador, totaling 16.7 percent of El  
16 Salvador's gross domestic product in 2012, the largest percentage  
17 in any Latin American country; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States prospered from a \$731 million  
19 trade surplus with El Salvador in 2013; and

20 WHEREAS, El Salvador and California would both benefit  
21 from increased trade, investment, tourism, and business  
22 partnerships; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States dollar is used as a medium of  
24 exchange in El Salvador, which encourages the United States to  
25 import and export goods and services; and

26 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama initiated the Presidential  
27 Policy Directive on Global Development in 2010, which identified  
28 El Salvador as one of four select countries chosen for increased  
29 foreign investment based on their track record of partnering with  
30 the United States, policy performance, and the potential for  
31 continued economic growth; and

32 WHEREAS, In September 2013, ~~El Salvador was the United~~  
33 ~~States awarded El Salvador a \$277 million grant by the United~~  
34 ~~States to improve El Salvador's competitiveness and productivity~~  
35 ~~in international markets; and~~

36 WHEREAS, Currently, the World Bank lending portfolio in El  
37 Salvador comprises \$290 million in commitments for projects  
38 including training services and job placement for poor people in  
39 urban areas, increasing access to the labor market, strengthening  
40 local governments, and improving public education; and

1 WHEREAS, The ~~California~~ Legislature recognizes the potential  
2 for mutually beneficial gains resulting from El Salvador’s economic  
3 development and is committed to encouraging exchanges with El  
4 Salvador in order to promote better economic ties through means  
5 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

6 (a) Supporting economic development activities of the  
7 Salvadoran foreign consulate trade officials located in California  
8 to establish partnerships to serve as platforms for expanding  
9 California exports and promoting California as a destination for  
10 investment.

11 (b) Developing a series of export-related seminars and webinars  
12 on best exporting practices, protecting intellectual property rights,  
13 and utilizing the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic  
14 Development (GO-Biz) support services and other related topics.

15 (c) Hosting incoming Salvadoran delegations in order to  
16 promote Californian products and services, encourage foreign  
17 investment, and expand economic exchange.

18 (d) Facilitating trade missions to El Salvador to promote  
19 California products and services in prioritized industries; and

20 WHEREAS, El Salvador is also committed to pursuing mutually  
21 beneficial economic activities with California; now, therefore, be  
22 it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
25 encourages ~~Go-Biz~~, *Go-Biz* to work in coordination with the  
26 Legislature to develop and implement comprehensive trade  
27 promotion and foreign investment activities that encourage stronger  
28 economic ties with El Salvador. These activities will identify  
29 opportunities to work with El Salvador and Salvadoran businesses  
30 to support California priority exports to El Salvador and Salvadoran  
31 investments in California; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the President of El Salvador, President Barack  
34 Obama, and the Governor of California.