

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 91

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom,
Dababneh, Quirk-Silva, Ting, Wagner, and Weber)
(Coauthors: Senators Mitchell and Yee)

February 4, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to the Persian New Year.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 91, as introduced, Nazarian. Persian New Year.
This measure would recognize the Persian New Year celebration.
Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Nowrūz, meaning the “New Day” is the name of
2 the New Year in the Persian calendar; and
3 WHEREAS, Nowrūz marks the first day of spring and the
4 beginning of the year in the Persian calendar. It is celebrated on
5 the day of the astronomical Northward equinox, which usually
6 occurs on March 20 or the following day depending on where it
7 is observed; and
8 WHEREAS, In Persian mythology, King Jamshid is credited
9 with the founding of Nowrūz, while others suggest that it was
10 founded by Zoroaster himself, although there is no clear date of
11 its origin. Celebrating the Vernal equinox may also have been an
12 old Babylonian tradition known before 2340 B.C.; and
13 WHEREAS, Nowrūz is celebrated and observed principally in
14 Iran and has spread to other parts of the world, including parts of

1 Central Asia, Caucasus, Northwestern China, the Crimea, and
2 some groups in the Balkans. In Iran, Nowrūz is an official holiday
3 lasting for 13 days during which most national functions, including
4 schools, are off and festivities take place. Also the Canadian
5 parliament, by unanimous consent, passed a bill on March 30,
6 2009 to add Nowrūz to the national calendar of Canada; and

7 WHEREAS, The most important activity in the celebration of
8 Nowrūz is setting the “haft-seen table” which literally means a
9 table of seven items that start with the letter “s.” The table often
10 includes items such as sumac (crushed spice of berries), senjed
11 (sweet dry fruit of a lotus tree), serkeh (vinegar), and seeb (apples);
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Nowrūz invites us to contemplate nature’s power
14 of renewal and rejuvenation, to look more deeply, not just into the
15 green world outside, but at our human nature as well; and

16 WHEREAS, For the people celebrating Nowrūz, it is a time to
17 appreciate their rich heritage and to move forward with hope for
18 a prosperous new year ahead filled with health, wealth, love, joy,
19 and success; now therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature joins the Persian and other
22 communities throughout the state in celebrating March 20, 2014,
23 as the beginning of the Persian New Year and extends best wishes
24 for a peaceful and prosperous Nowrūz to all Californians; and be
25 it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
27 of this resolution to the authors for appropriate distribution.