

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 27, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 25, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

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 amended, 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

1 its origin. Celebrating the Vernal equinox may also have been an
2 old Babylonian tradition known before 2340 B.C.; and

3 WHEREAS, Nowrūz is celebrated and observed principally in
4 Iran and has spread to other parts of the world, including parts of
5 Central Asia, the Caucasus, Northwestern China, the Crimea, and
6 some groups in the Balkans. In Iran, Nowrūz is an official holiday
7 lasting for 13 days during which most national functions, including
8 schools, are off and festivities take place. Also the Canadian
9 Parliament, by unanimous consent, passed a bill on March 30,
10 2009, to add Nowrūz to the national calendar of Canada; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, For the people celebrating Nowrūz, it is a time to
21 appreciate their rich heritage and to move forward with hope for
22 a prosperous new year ahead filled with health, wealth, love, joy,
23 and success; and

24 WHEREAS, According to figures from the 2000 United States
25 Census, over one-half of all Iranian immigrants in the United States
26 lived in the State of California. In 2000, that figure was 55.9
27 percent or 158,613 residents. The states with the next largest
28 Iranian immigrant populations were New York, with 17,323
29 residents or 6.1 percent of the population, Texas, with 15,581
30 residents or 5.5 percent of the population, Virginia, with 10,889
31 residents or 3.8 percent of the population, and Maryland, with
32 9,733 residents or 3.4 percent of the population; and

33 *WHEREAS, According to the 2000 United States Census, the*
34 *largest community of Iranian descent in the United States resides*
35 *in California, concentrated in the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills*
36 *area. The number of Iranian descent people in this area is greater*
37 *than the Iranian populations in the next 20 states combined; and*

38 WHEREAS, The Iranian population in California has grown to
39 over 200,000 residents according to the 2010 United States Census.

1 However, ~~the Iranian organizations and the Iranian~~ Community
2 believes the correct number may be four times that amount.

3 ~~WHEREAS, According to the latest United States Census, the~~
4 ~~largest community of Iranian descent in the United States resides~~
5 ~~in California, concentrated in the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills~~
6 ~~area, with 158,613 residents, a number greater than the Iranian~~
7 ~~populations in the next 20 states combined; and~~

8 WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration conducted a
9 study in 2008 that found that Iranian immigrants were among the
10 top 20 immigrant groups with the highest rate of business
11 ownership, contributing substantially to the national economy; and

12 WHEREAS, Iranian Americans have founded and served in
13 senior leadership positions of many major American companies;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles City Council designated the
16 intersection of Westwood Boulevard and Wilkins Avenue in West
17 Los Angeles as “Persian Square.” The first Persian business in the
18 city opened in 1974 on the corner of Westwood Boulevard and
19 Wilkins Avenue. Since then there has been an increase of Persian
20 businesses and residents into the area. Many of the businesses on
21 Westwood Boulevard, between Wilshire Boulevard and Ohio
22 Avenue, are owned and operated by people of Persian cultural
23 identity; now, therefore, be it

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

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