

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 112

Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin

February 25, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 112, as introduced, Mullin. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2014 as Irish American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to the country and state.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship
2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United
3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising
4 future for themselves and their families; and
5 WHEREAS, The journey to America from the Emerald Isle was
6 not paved with gold. The Irish spirit of determination, perseverance,
7 and grit prevailed against dangerous seas and deadly conditions
8 with their hearts set on the horizon; and
9 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and
10 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years
11 went on, Irish Americans became deeply integrated in their
12 communities and made numerous contributions in all aspects of
13 American society and culture; and
14 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the
15 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were

1 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 22 Presidents of
2 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.
3 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

4 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to
5 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
6 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy
7 Burns, activist in the Women’s Movement; and Senator George
8 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

9 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in
10 California politics as governors, legislative leaders, city mayors,
11 and other public officials, who have worked tirelessly to build
12 California to the state that it is today; and

13 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were significantly involved in the
14 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
15 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
16 bridges that connected the west to the east. The Irish were also
17 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
18 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

19 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark as
20 peace officers and firefighters, and have risked or lost their lives
21 on countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

22 WHEREAS, Many outstanding soldiers, never to be forgotten,
23 who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War were
24 of Irish descent. Irish Americans have proudly served with
25 distinction in every war that this nation has fought and continue
26 to do so today; and

27 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
28 the United States economy in business, including: Alexander
29 Stewart, the inventor of the American department store; Cathleen
30 Black, president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president
31 and chief executive officer of General Electric; and Herb Kelleher,
32 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; Paul Adams of Facebook; John
33 Donahoe, chief executive officer of eBay, Inc.; Conrad Burke,
34 founder of Innovalight; and Maggie Sullivan Wilderotter, chief
35 executive officer of Frontier Communications; and

36 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
37 science, including astronaut Michael Collins, first female
38 commander of a space shuttle, Eileen Collins, physicist and Nobel
39 Laureate Charles Townes, and bioengineer and MacArthur “Genius
40 grant” recipient James Collins; and

1 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American
2 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery
3 O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,
4 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

5 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American
6 entertainment with such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John
7 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;
8 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell; actor
9 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;
10 actress and singer Judy Garland; comedian Conan O'Brien; and
11 actor and director Edward Burns, all being of Irish heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, over 34 million Americans claim Irish
13 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and
14 California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
17 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a
18 better country and state for all people, designates March 2014 to
19 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon
20 the people of the state to observe the month of March with
21 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on
22 March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be it
23 further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.