

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 161**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Logue, Hall, and Perea**  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Campos, Chesbro, Conway, Gray, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Maienschein, Medina, Mullin, Quirk-Silva, V. Manuel Pérez, ~~and Waldron~~ *Waldron, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Chávez, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Lowenthal, Mansoor, Melendez, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, John A. Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Wagner, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada*)

June 11, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161—Relative to California Chrome.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 161, as amended, Logue. California Chrome: thoroughbred horse racing.

This measure would recognize the outstanding performance of California Chrome during his remarkable run for thoroughbred horse racing's Triple Crown, and, in particular, for his tremendous victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, would recognize and

congratulate the many Californians who are part of the ownership group, breeding and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to his success, and would recognize the storied history of thoroughbred horse racing in California, the Cal-bred Program, and its contributions to job creation and the state's economy.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California has a long and proud thoroughbred  
2 racing history, dating back some 160 years. In particular, the  
3 Central Valley has been the birthplace of champions since the  
4 1880s. California Chrome, born and raised at Harris Farms in  
5 Coalinga, continues that tradition and has become an outstanding  
6 representative of his namesake state; and

7 WHEREAS, California horse racing today accounts for an  
8 estimated 50,000 jobs, 148,000 thoroughbred horses, and a \$2.5  
9 billion impact on the state's economy. Combining athleticism,  
10 grace, beauty, and speed, this sport reaches millions of fans  
11 worldwide and carries priceless positive impressions of what  
12 California has to offer; and

13 WHEREAS, The Kentucky Derby is the world's most famous  
14 horse race and part of the celebrated Triple Crown of thoroughbred  
15 horse racing for three-year-old horses only. Along with the  
16 Preakness and Belmont Stakes, these three classics are the races  
17 that horse owners, breeders, trainers, and jockeys all dream of  
18 winning; and

19 WHEREAS, This spring, California Chrome won the 140th  
20 Kentucky Derby and 139th Preakness Stakes, the first time a  
21 California-bred colt swept the first two legs of the Triple Crown.  
22 Both victories ended lengthy droughts for the state's racing  
23 industry. California Chrome became the fourth California-born  
24 Derby winner and first since 1962 and California's fifth Preakness  
25 winner and first since 1986; and

26 WHEREAS, It takes a very special horse to reach national  
27 prominence by winning multiple races at multiple tracks across  
28 the country. In his career so far, California Chrome has won races  
29 at California's Hollywood Park, Del Mar, and Santa Anita Park,  
30 in addition to Kentucky's Churchill Downs and Maryland's Pimlico  
31 Race Course at distances from 4 ½ furlongs to 1 ¼ miles; and

32 WHEREAS, Among California Chrome's eight career victories  
33 there was a six-stakes win streak featuring such milestones as the

1 King Glorious Stakes, the final stakes event held at Hollywood  
2 Park, and the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby as well as the Kentucky  
3 Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and

4 WHEREAS, California Chrome, a chestnut-colored horse as  
5 golden as his home state, transcended thoroughbred horse racing  
6 to become an international phenomenon not just with his brilliant  
7 speed and winning ways, but due to his heart-warming story and  
8 the people who make up his team; and

9 WHEREAS, California is a state where people are unafraid to  
10 dream big and that's in part what inspired four fans to cross over  
11 into horse ownership and become first-time breeders. An  
12 inspiration to the "little guys" everywhere, Perry and Denise Martin  
13 of Yuba City and Steve and Carolyn Coburn of Topaz Lake,  
14 Nevada, became partners in a mare, Love the Chase, who they  
15 bought from a syndicate for \$8,000. After someone scoffed at their  
16 perceived foolishness, the couples named their new venture "Dumb  
17 Ass Partners (D.A.P.) Racing"; and

18 WHEREAS, The partners sent their lone mare to Harris Farms  
19 to be bred and chose the stallion Lucky Pulpit, owned by Mr. and  
20 Mrs. Larry Williams. California Chrome is Love the Chase's first  
21 foal. Before the colt was born, Steve Coburn vividly dreamed about  
22 the big chestnut colt with four white legs and distinctive blaze and  
23 felt sure the newborn was destined for greatness; and

24 WHEREAS, After a difficult birth, the mare was nursed back  
25 to health by the excellent and attentive veterinary staff at Harris  
26 Farms. This hands-on care also imprinted a love for people on her  
27 intelligent and precocious son nicknamed "Junior." Developing  
28 his mind and body, California Chrome spent his first two years at  
29 Harris Farms, where he was groomed to be a racehorse; and

30 WHEREAS, When it came time to start racing, the partners sent  
31 their only racehorse to trainer Art Sherman with the proclamation  
32 that this was "his Derby horse" and a suggested road map of races  
33 to qualify. Sherman's prior Derby experience was as the exercise  
34 rider for California-bred 1955 Kentucky Derby winner Swaps.  
35 Coincidentally, California Chrome is Swaps' great-great-great-great  
36 grandson; and

37 WHEREAS, California Chrome, as he prepared for the Triple  
38 Crown trail, gained his foundation and experience in the lucrative  
39 Golden State Series for Cal-bred horses, confirming the value and  
40 significance of the state's breeding program; and

1 WHEREAS, Art Sherman, at 77 years of age, became the oldest  
2 trainer to win the Kentucky Derby. California Chrome also became  
3 the first Derby and Preakness winner trained at Los Alamitos Race  
4 Course in Cypress, California; and

5 WHEREAS, Success is the result of teamwork and California  
6 Chrome's campaign is no exception. Jockey Victor Espinoza  
7 guided the colt to those six straight stakes wins. Assistant trainer  
8 Alan Sherman served as his father's right-hand man and  
9 accompanied their Triple Crown candidate for six weeks on the  
10 road; and

11 WHEREAS, Groom Raul Rodriguez became California  
12 Chrome's constant companion, attending to his every need.  
13 Exercise rider Willie Delgado made sure the colt paid attention to  
14 his morning lessons; and

15 WHEREAS, California Chrome's Triple Crown bid fell short  
16 when he injured a hoof at the start of the 146th Belmont Stakes,  
17 yet valiantly finished tied for fourth only  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lengths from victory.  
18 That loss did not diminish his amazing accomplishments; and

19 WHEREAS, In any sport, it takes an extraordinary athlete to  
20 become a household name. California Chrome joined a short list  
21 of such equine superstars as Seabiscuit and Secretariat with  
22 cross-over appeal and the ability to make new fans as evidenced  
23 by his thousands of "Chromies"; and

24 WHEREAS, California Chrome became, as Art Sherman said,  
25 a "California rock star" and the latest example that California  
26 dreams can come true; and

27 WHEREAS, California Chrome's grit, determination, and heart  
28 carried him far beyond this state; it made California Chrome  
29 "America's horse"; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
31 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the outstanding  
32 performance of California Chrome during his remarkable run for  
33 thoroughbred horse racing's Triple Crown, and, in particular, for  
34 his tremendous victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness  
35 Stakes; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes and congratulates the  
37 many Californians who are part of the ownership group, breeding  
38 and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to the  
39 success of California Chrome; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the storied history of  
2 thoroughbred horse racing in California, the Cal-bred Program,  
3 and its important contributions to job creation and the state's  
4 economy that result from a vibrant California thoroughbred horse  
5 racing industry; and be it further

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

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