

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 168

**Introduced by Assembly Members ~~V. Manuel Pérez and Alejo and~~
*V. Manuel Pérez***

August 4, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 168—Relative to Native
~~Americans: NFL Football: Change the Mascot: *Americans.*~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 168, as amended, ~~V. Manuel Pérez~~ Alejo. ~~Native Americans:
Americans: NFL Football: Change the Mascot.~~

This measure would urge the National Football League (NFL) to join with the Legislature and numerous organizations in calling for a name change for the Washington, D.C. NFL team, and calls upon the owners of NFL teams based in California to urge the owner of the Washington, D.C. NFL team and the NFL Commissioner to change the team mascot.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 *WHEREAS, California has the highest Native American*
2 *population in the country, with over 700,000 people who identify*
3 *themselves as Native American and over 109 federally recognized*
4 *Indian tribes; and*

5 WHEREAS, The name used by the Washington, D.C. National
6 Football League (NFL) team is ~~widely recognized as believed by~~
7 *some to be a racial slur and ~~promotes to promote~~ discrimination*
8 *against Native Americans; and*

9 WHEREAS, “Indian” sports brands used by professional teams
10 were born in an era when racism and bigotry were deemed

1 acceptable. These brands, which have grown to become
2 multi-million dollar franchises, were established at a time when
3 the practice of employing racial epithets and slurs as marketing
4 slogans was commonly used to capitalize on cultural superiority
5 and racial tensions; *acceptable*; and

6 WHEREAS, 50 United States Senators joined together to send
7 a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell demanding that, “It’s
8 time for the NFL to endorse a name change for the Washington,
9 D.C. football team”; and

10 WHEREAS, Dozens of groups representing millions of
11 Americans have asked NFL players to take a stand against the
12 Washington, D.C. NFL team’s use of the derogatory R-word; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 18, 2014, the United States Patent and
14 Trademark Office (USPTO) canceled the Washington, D.C. NFL
15 team’s federal trademark registration of the name “Washington
16 R_____.” The USPTO ruling deemed the term “disparaging to
17 Native Americans,” and canceled the trademark status of the name.
18 Unless the Washington, D.C. NFL team successfully appeals, the
19 USPTO ruling would mean that the team has no legal ownership
20 over the term; and

21 WHEREAS, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle,
22 city councils, top sports icons, civil rights groups, religious groups,
23 prominent journalists, and President Obama have all spoken out
24 against the team’s continued use of the epithet; now, therefore, be
25 it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature ~~stands with the 109~~
28 ~~federally recognized Indian tribes in California, which has the~~
29 ~~highest Native American population in the country with over~~
30 ~~700,000 people who identify themselves as Native American, and~~
31 ~~urges the National Football League (NFL) to join Indian Country;~~
32 ~~The the National Congress of American Indians; Indians and other~~
33 organizations, which represent more than 2 million Native
34 Americans across the country and more than 300 tribes in the
35 United States, in calling for a name change for the Washington,
36 D.C. NFL team; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the owners of NFL
38 teams based in California to urge the Washington, D.C. NFL team
39 owner Dan Snyder and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to
40 adhere to the wishes of the millions of people who have joined

- 1 Indian Country in urging that they change the team mascot; and
- 2 be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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