

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2364**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members V. Manuel Pérez and Bigelow**

February 21, 2014

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An act to add Section 422.7 to the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2364, as introduced, V. Manuel Pérez. State amphibian: California red-legged frog.

Existing law establishes the state flag and the state's emblems, including, among other things, the poppy as the official state flower, the California redwood as the official state tree, and the California desert tortoise as the official state reptile.

This bill would establish the California red-legged frog as the official state amphibian.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The California red-legged frog is the largest native frog in
- 4 the western United States and is found almost exclusively in
- 5 California with a few sightings in Baja California and Mexico.
- 6 (b) The California red-legged frog is particularly well known
- 7 as a result of Mark Twain's famous short story "The Celebrated
- 8 Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," which featured the species.

1 To this day, the County of Calaveras holds annual frog-jumping  
2 contests as an important aspect of local history and tradition.

3 (c) The California red-legged frog's unique place in California's  
4 history extends as far back as the 19th century gold rush. Miners,  
5 known as forty-niners, consumed nearly 80,000 frogs per year,  
6 nearly eating the species into extinction.

7 (d) While the California red-legged frog no longer has to fear  
8 the fork, the species continues to face myriad natural and manmade  
9 threats, including the introduction of invasive species into the  
10 California red-legged frog's habitat, as well as habitat loss. In fact,  
11 according to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
12 populations of the California red-legged frog have disappeared  
13 from nearly 70 percent of its historically known habitat. In May  
14 1996, the species was listed as a federal endangered species, with  
15 the state also classifying it as endangered and subject to protection  
16 in June 1996.

17 (e) Declaring the California red-legged frog as the official state  
18 amphibian of California will acknowledge the species' important  
19 place in the ecology, culture, and history of California, as well as  
20 broadcast and reinforce the state's commitment to protecting  
21 endangered species.

22 SEC. 2. Section 422.7 is added to the Government Code, to  
23 read:

24 422.7. The California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) is the  
25 official state amphibian.