

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2364

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

February 21, 2014

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2364, as amended, 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.

1 (b) The California red-legged frog is particularly well known
 2 as a result of Mark Twain’s famous short story “The Celebrated
 3 Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” which featured the species.
 4 ~~To this day, the County of Calaveras holds annual frog-jumping~~
 5 ~~contests as an important aspect of local history and tradition.~~

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

10 (d) While the California red-legged frog no longer has to fear
 11 the fork, the species continues to face myriad natural and manmade
 12 threats, including the introduction of invasive species into the
 13 California red-legged frog’s habitat, as well as habitat loss. In fact,
 14 according to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
 15 populations of the California red-legged frog have disappeared
 16 from nearly 70 percent of its historically known habitat. In May
 17 1996, the species was listed as a federal ~~endangered~~ *threatened*
 18 species, with the state also classifying it as ~~endangered~~ *a species*
 19 *of special concern* and subject to protection in June 1996.

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

25 SEC. 2. Section 422.7 is added to the Government Code, to
 26 read:

27 422.7. The California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) is the
 28 official state amphibian.