

Introduced by Senator De León

March 27, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103—Relative to California/El Salvador relations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 103, as introduced, De León. California and El Salvador: partnership.

This measure would extend an invitation to the government of El Salvador to partner with California to promote democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic opportunity and growth, and to foster international understanding through increased trade and investment and mutually beneficial educational, economic, and cultural exchanges between California’s and El Salvador’s institutions.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of California is
2 committed to encouraging relationships and exchanges between
3 California and other regions of the world in order to promote better
4 economic ties, understanding, and cultural relations; and
5 WHEREAS, El Salvador and California have long shared
6 common interests and each stand to benefit from increased trade,
7 investment, and tourism, as well as cultural, educational, and
8 scientific exchanges; and
9 WHEREAS, The 12-year Salvadoran Civil War, which began
10 in the early 1980’s and took the lives of over 75,000 Salvadorans,
11 resulted in a massive influx of refugees to California, specifically
12 to Los Angeles and San Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles, a sister city to San
2 Salvador, is home to the largest concentration of Salvadoran
3 nationals in the United States, making it inextricably linked to the
4 nation of El Salvador; and

5 WHEREAS, Of the 1.6 million Salvadorans who live in the
6 United States, more than 500,000 call California home. Salvadorans
7 constitute the second largest Latino community in California, and
8 live in major cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles; and

9 WHEREAS, The state's 22nd Senate District encompasses the
10 neighborhoods of Pico-Union and Westlake, where many
11 Salvadoran refugees settled during the Salvadoran Civil War and
12 is also home to a plaza and statue in commemoration of the
13 humanitarian Monsignor Oscar A. Romero in MacArthur Park;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, El Salvador and California are committed by the
16 historic cultural relations between their people, which represents
17 an important opportunity to promote economic, commercial,
18 cultural, and business relations; and

19 WHEREAS, Establishing a formal relationship between El
20 Salvador and California would help achieve important goals, and
21 would strengthen and facilitate additional mutually beneficial
22 exchanges in cities like sister cities Los Angeles and San Salvador;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, March 24, 2014 is a special occasion, as it will
25 mark the 34th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Monsignor Oscar
26 A. Romero, whose tomb President Obama visited on March 23,
27 2011; and

28 WHEREAS, Monsignor Romero is a historical icon of the
29 Salvadoran people, and in that spirit, the State of California joins
30 President Obama, the City of Los Angeles, the Salvadoran
31 community, the government of El Salvador, and millions of
32 followers in El Salvador and around the world, in paying tribute
33 to his life and teachings; and

34 WHEREAS, El Salvador recently held a presidential election
35 on March 9, 2014, that according to international observers,
36 including the Organization of American States (OAS), the United
37 Nations, and hundreds of United States citizens, was free and
38 democratic, and for which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE)
39 was praised, for the election's transparency and professionalism;
40 and

1 WHEREAS, The State of California joins the United Nations,
2 international observers, the OAS, and many civil and religious
3 organizations in recognizing the work of the TSE, and calls upon
4 the two major political parties to respect the will of the people as
5 demonstrated by the March 9th election, and to respect the final
6 outcome announced by the TSE, which has the legal mandate under
7 the Salvadoran Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of California will work closely with the
9 newly democratically elected government of El Salvador, and
10 President-elect Salvador Sánchez Cerén, to promote private
11 investment in both El Salvador and California, and encourage
12 Californian private companies to invest in El Salvador; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States prospered from a \$692.6 million
14 trade surplus with El Salvador in 2013; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, on behalf of the people
17 of the State of California, hereby extends an invitation to the
18 government of El Salvador to partner with California to promote
19 democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic opportunity
20 and growth, and to foster international understanding through
21 increased trade and investment and mutually beneficial educational,
22 economic, and cultural exchanges between California's and El
23 Salvador's institutions; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
25 this resolution to the President of El Salvador, to the Governor of
26 California, and to the author for appropriate distribution.