

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 30, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 18, 2014

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 103**

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**Introduced by Senator De León**

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

March 27, 2014

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 103, as amended, De León. California and El Salvador: election.

This measure would commend the government of El Salvador on its handling of the recent election and would recognize the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and other institutions in assisting with the election in the spirit of the Chapultepec Peace Accords.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of California is  
2 committed to recognizing democratic governments in their efforts  
3 to develop policies that support the rule of law and the long-term  
4 economic growth and shared prosperity of all members of society;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, El Salvador and California have long shared  
7 common interests and each stand to benefit from increased trade,  
8 investment, and tourism, as well as cultural, educational, and  
9 scientific exchanges; and

10 WHEREAS, The 12-year Salvadoran Civil War, which began  
11 in the early 1980s, took the lives of over 75,000 Salvadorans,  
12 resulted in a displacement of over 500,000 people, and was  
13 concluded with the signing of the Chapultepec Peace Accords in  
14 Mexico City in 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, El Salvador's peace settlement, as summarized by  
16 the United States Institute of Peace, provided for a cease-fire, the  
17 demobilization of military and guerrilla forces, the establishment  
18 of the rebel Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)  
19 as a political party, and the reintegration of its combatants into  
20 society. The Chapultepec Peace Accords further committed the  
21 government to making changes in the nature, responsibilities, and  
22 size of the country's armed forces, creating a new national civilian  
23 police force and an intelligence service separate from the military,  
24 implementing human rights measures, adopting electoral and  
25 judicial reforms, and providing limited social and economic  
26 programs primarily benefiting members of the demobilized forces  
27 and war-ravaged communities; and

28 WHEREAS, A majority of Salvadorans fleeing the civil war  
29 came to the United States, with most coming to Los Angeles and  
30 San Francisco; and

31 WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles, a sister city to San  
32 Salvador, is home to the largest concentration of Salvadoran  
33 nationals in the United States, making it inextricably linked to the  
34 nation of El Salvador; and

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

39 WHEREAS, The state's 22nd Senate District encompasses the  
40 neighborhoods of Pico-Union and Westlake, where many

1 Salvadoran refugees settled during the Salvadoran Civil War and  
2 is also home to a plaza and statue in commemoration of the  
3 humanitarian Monsignor Oscar A. Romero in MacArthur Park;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The California Legislature supports actions that  
6 would strengthen and facilitate mutually beneficial exchanges in  
7 cities like sister cities Los Angeles and San Salvador; and

8 WHEREAS, March 24, 2014, was a special occasion, as it  
9 marked the 34th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Monsignor  
10 Oscar A. Romero, whose tomb President Obama visited on March  
11 23, 2011; and

12 WHEREAS, Monsignor Romero is a historical icon of the  
13 Salvadoran people, and in that spirit, the State of California joins  
14 President Obama, the City of Los Angeles, the Salvadoran  
15 community, the government of El Salvador, and millions of  
16 followers in El Salvador and around the world, in paying tribute  
17 to his life and teachings; and

18 WHEREAS, El Salvador recently held a presidential election  
19 on March 9, 2014, that according to international observers,  
20 including the Organization of American States (OAS), the United  
21 Nations, and hundreds of United States citizens, was free and  
22 democratic, and for which the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE)  
23 was praised, for the election's transparency and professionalism;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The State of California joins the United Nations,  
26 international observers, the OAS, and many civil and religious  
27 organizations in recognizing the work of the TSE, the commitment  
28 of the two major political parties to respect the will of the people  
29 as demonstrated by the March 9th election, and the final outcome  
30 announced by the TSE as the legal mandate under the Salvadoran  
31 Constitution; and

32 WHEREAS, Addressing the socio-economic issues that long  
33 fomented civil unrest in El Salvador prior to the civil war, and  
34 which were again brought to the forefront in the global recession  
35 in 2009, will take time and a consistent commitment by the  
36 Salvadoran government to build an equitable economic  
37 environment that supports the efforts of workers and the middle  
38 class to prosper and benefit from the nation's economic growth.  
39 To this end, the State of California can serve as an important  
40 economic partner with the newly democratically elected

1 government of El Salvador, and President Salvador Sánchez Cerén,  
2 in promoting trade and private investment in both El Salvador and  
3 California; and

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

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, on behalf of the people  
8 of the State of California, commends the Salvadoran people for  
9 their high turnout in the election, as well as the state institutions  
10 for their professional handling of the election process. California  
11 looks forward to a positive and cooperative relationship with  
12 Salvadorans living in California and with President Sánchez Cerén  
13 and his government as they continue to forge new policies and  
14 take actions that promote democratic institutions, the rule of law,  
15 and economic opportunity and growth for all Salvadorans, in the  
16 spirit of the Chapultepec Peace Accords; and be it further

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