

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 12, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Daly, Gallagher, ~~and O'Donnell~~
*O'Donnell, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow,
Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chang,
Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Dodd,
Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia,
Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley,
Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine,
Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty,
Medina, Melendez, Nazarian, Obernolte, Olsen, Patterson, Perea,
Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago,
Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber,
Wilk, Williams, and Wood*)**

(Coauthor: Senator McGuire)

February 23, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 28, as amended, Mullin. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2015 as Irish American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to the country and state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship
2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United
3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising
4 future for themselves and their families; and

5 WHEREAS, The journey to America from the Emerald Isle was
6 not paved with gold. The Irish spirit of determination, perseverance,
7 and grit prevailed against dangerous seas and deadly conditions
8 with their hearts set on the horizon; and

9 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and
10 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years
11 went on, Irish Americans became deeply integrated in their
12 communities and made numerous contributions in all aspects of
13 American society and culture; and

14 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the
15 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were
16 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 22 Presidents of
17 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.
18 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

19 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to
20 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
21 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy
22 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and Senator George
23 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

24 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in
25 California politics as governors, legislative leaders, city mayors,
26 and other public officials, who have worked tirelessly to build
27 California to the state that it is today; and

28 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were significantly involved in the
29 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
30 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
31 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also
32 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
33 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

34 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark as
35 peace officers and firefighters, and have risked or lost their lives
36 on countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

37 WHEREAS, Many outstanding soldiers, never to be forgotten,
38 who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War were
39 of Irish descent. Irish Americans have proudly served with

1 distinction in every war that this nation has fought and continue
2 to do so today; and

3 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
4 the United States economy in business, including: Alexander
5 Stewart, the inventor of the American department store; Cathleen
6 Black, president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president
7 and chief executive officer of General Electric; Herb Kelleher,
8 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; Paul Adams of Facebook; John
9 Donahoe, chief executive officer of eBay, Inc.; Conrad Burke,
10 founder of Innovalight; and Maggie Sullivan Wilderotter, chief
11 executive officer of Frontier Communications; and

12 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
13 science, including: astronaut, Michael Collins; first female
14 commander of a space shuttle, Eileen Collins; physicist and Nobel
15 Laureate, Charles Townes; and bioengineer and MacArthur
16 “Genius grant” recipient, James Collins; and

17 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American
18 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery
19 O’Connor, Eugene O’Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,
20 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

21 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American
22 entertainment with such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John
23 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;
24 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O’Donnell; actor
25 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;
26 actress and singer Judy Garland; comedian Conan O’Brien; and
27 actor and director Edward Burns, all being of Irish heritage; and

28 WHEREAS, Today, over 34 million Americans claim Irish
29 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and
30 California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
33 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a
34 better country and state for all people, designates March 2015 to
35 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon
36 the people of the state to observe the month of March with
37 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on
38 March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day; and be it
39 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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