

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 24, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 2

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian

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

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Block, Hall, Hertzberg, Leno, Nielsen, Stone, Vidak, and Wieckowski)

December 1, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 2—Relative to the Persian New Year.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 2, as amended, Nazarian. Persian New Year.

This measure would recognize the Persian New Year celebration.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Nowrūz, meaning the “New Day” is the name of
2 the New Year in the Persian calendar; and

3 WHEREAS, Nowrūz marks the first day of spring and the
4 beginning of the year in the Persian calendar. It is celebrated on
5 the day of the astronomical Northward equinox, which usually
6 occurs on March 20 or the following day depending on where it
7 is observed; and

8 WHEREAS, In Persian mythology, King Jamshid is credited
9 with the founding of Nowrūz, while others suggest that it was
10 founded by Zoroaster himself, although there is no clear date of
11 its origin. Celebrating the Vernal equinox may also have been an
12 old Babylonian tradition known before 2340 B.C.; and

13 WHEREAS, Nowrūz is celebrated and observed principally in
14 Iran and has spread to other parts of the world, including parts of
15 Central Asia, the Caucasus, Northwestern China, the Crimea, and
16 some groups in the Balkans. In Iran, Nowrūz is an official holiday
17 lasting for 13 days during which most national functions, including
18 schools, are off and festivities take place. Also the Canadian
19 Parliament, by unanimous consent, passed a bill on March 30,
20 2009, to add Nowrūz to the national calendar of Canada; and

21 WHEREAS, The most important activity in the celebration of
22 Nowrūz is setting the “haft-seen table” which literally means a
23 table of seven items that start with the letter “s.” The table often
24 includes items such as sumac (crushed spice of berries), senjed
25 (sweet dry fruit of a lotus tree), serkeh (vinegar), and seeb (apples);
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Nowrūz invites us to contemplate nature’s power
28 of renewal and rejuvenation, to look more deeply, not just into the
29 green world outside, but at our human nature as well; and

30 WHEREAS, For the people celebrating Nowrūz, it is a time to
31 appreciate their rich heritage and to move forward with hope for
32 a prosperous new year ahead filled with health, wealth, love, joy,
33 and success; and

34 WHEREAS, According to figures from the 2000 United States
35 Census, over one-half of all Iranian immigrants in the United States
36 lived in the State of California. In 2000, that figure was 55.9
37 percent or 158,613 residents. The states with the next largest
38 Iranian immigrant populations were New York, with 17,323
39 residents or 6.1 percent of the population, Texas, with 15,581
40 residents or 5.5 percent of the population, Virginia, with 10,889

1 residents or 3.8 percent of the population, and Maryland, with
2 9,733 residents or 3.4 percent of the population; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the 2000 United States Census, the
4 largest community of Iranian descent in the United States resides
5 in California, concentrated in the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills
6 area. The number of people of Iranian descent in this area is greater
7 than the Iranian populations in the next 20 states combined; and

8 WHEREAS, The Iranian population in California has grown to
9 over 200,000 residents according to the 2010 United States Census.

10 However, Iranian organizations and the Iranian Community
11 believes the correct number may be four times that amount; and

12 WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration conducted a
13 study in 2008 that found that Iranian immigrants were among the
14 top 20 immigrant groups with the highest rate of business
15 ownership, contributing substantially to the national economy; and

16 WHEREAS, Iranian Americans have founded and served in
17 senior leadership positions of many major American companies;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles City Council designated the
20 intersection of Westwood Boulevard and Wilkins Avenue in West
21 Los Angeles as “Persian Square.” The first Persian business in the
22 city opened in 1974 on the corner of Westwood Boulevard and
23 Wilkins Avenue. Since then there has been an increase of Persian
24 businesses and residents in the area. Many of the businesses on
25 Westwood Boulevard, between Wilshire Boulevard and Ohio
26 Avenue, are owned and operated by people of Persian cultural
27 identity; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature joins the Persian and other
30 communities throughout the state in celebrating March 21, 2015,
31 as the beginning of the Persian New Year and extends best wishes
32 for a peaceful and prosperous Nowrūz to all Californians; and be
33 it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
35 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.