

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 3, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 31

Introduced by Assembly Members Perea and Gallagher

(Principal coauthors: Senators Cannella and Galgiani)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cooper, Dodd, Eggman, Grove,
Quirk, and Salas)**

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Anderson, Bates, Berryhill, Block, Fuller, Gaines, Hall, Hernandez, Hertzberg, Hill, Hueso, Huff, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Leyva, Liu, McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nguyen, Nielsen, Pan, Roth, Stone, Vidak, Wieckowski, and Wolk)

February 24, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 31, as amended, Perea. California Agriculture Day.

This measure would recognize and honor the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by observing March 18, 2015, as National Agriculture Day, and designating March 18, 2015, as California Agriculture Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, March 18, 2015, is designated as California
- 2 Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's
- 3 importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians
- 4 nourished, and its role in keeping the state's economy ranked as
- 5 the eighth largest in the world; and

1 WHEREAS, The 2015 theme of California Agriculture Day is
2 “California Breaking New Ground” in recognition of the diversity
3 and significance of California agriculture, which is constantly
4 developing new and innovative technologies; and

5 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California
6 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing
7 more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for
8 approximately 50 percent of the nation’s supply of fruits,
9 vegetables, and nuts; and

10 WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of ~~millions of~~ *California’s*
11 farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the
12 agricultural industry; and

13 WHEREAS, California’s agricultural community relies on a
14 vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection
15 of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health,
16 the environment, and commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, With less than 1 percent of California’s population
18 engaged in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker today
19 provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in
20 1947; and

21 WHEREAS, Today’s agricultural industry offers ~~over 300 a~~
22 *diverse range of* challenging and rewarding career opportunities,
23 from on-farm cultivation to food science and engineering; and

24 WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in
25 agricultural production have resulted in a drop in consumer
26 spending on food products from 23 percent of disposable income
27 in 1947 to approximately 10 percent today; and

28 WHEREAS, California is the nation’s leader in agricultural
29 exports, shipping more than ~~16~~ *18.8* billion dollars worth of food
30 and agricultural commodities around the world in ~~2011~~; *2012*; and

31 WHEREAS, California’s agricultural industry constantly seeks
32 to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production
33 and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing
34 consumer needs and complex world markets; and

35 WHEREAS, Public-private partnerships are continually being
36 developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices
37 on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

38 WHEREAS, California consumers ~~say that it is important to~~
39 ~~them to purchase foods grown in California~~, *California consumers*
40 *say that “California grown” is more important to them today than*

1 ~~it was in years past, and, in the last decade, California consumers~~
2 ~~have increased~~ *are increasingly demonstrating their preference*
3 *for “California grown” products, and over the last decade,*
4 *Californians have greatly increased their support of farmers’*
5 *markets, community-supported agricultural programs, and*
6 *farm-to-school programs; and*

7 WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital
8 to ensure that ~~California~~ *agriculture in California* continues to
9 flourish; and

10 WHEREAS, California is estimated to lose 500,000 acres of
11 agricultural land by 2050 and more than 300,000 acres of it will
12 have been highly productive irrigated cropland, and thus California
13 should continue to work for conservation to preserve California’s
14 agricultural heritage; and

15 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize
16 our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in
17 providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes and honors*
21 *the men and women of California agriculture for their dedication*
22 *and productivity by observing March 18, 2015, as National*
23 *Agriculture Day, and designating Wednesday, March 18, 2015,*
24 *as California Agriculture Day; and be it further*

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