

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 17, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 36

Introduced by Assembly Member Gray

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brough, Chávez, Daly, Frazier, and Mathis)

(Coauthors: Senators Hertzberg, Nguyen, Nielsen, Roth, and Vidak)

February 27, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Relative to the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 36, as amended, Gray. California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

This measure would recognize the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers for helping veterans secure their federal and state benefits over the past 70 years.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Some California counties established County
2 Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) after World War I to assist
3 California's veterans to obtain ~~their hard-earned entitlement;~~ *the*
4 *federal veterans benefits they earned by virtue of their service to*
5 *our country;* and

6 WHEREAS, San Bernardino established the first CVSO office
7 in California in 1926, and at least 10 other counties with large

1 veteran populations also established CVSO offices between World
2 War I and World War II; and

3 WHEREAS, At the end of World War II, most California
4 counties recognized the need to help their returning veterans to
5 obtain federal benefits, and quickly established CVSO offices in
6 their counties; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1945, with the end of World War II and the
8 return of thousands of veterans to California, the California
9 Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) was
10 formed; and

11 WHEREAS, The CACVSO was created to assist returning
12 veterans in accessing their earned entitlements as authorized by
13 Congress, such as the GI Bill for education and the veteran home
14 loan program, as well as compensation and pension benefits for
15 wounded veterans and their families; and

16 WHEREAS, The CACVSO promotes state and federal
17 legislation and policy supportive of veterans' rights and issues, in
18 harmony with our national obligation to veterans of the United
19 States Armed Forces; and

20 WHEREAS, The CACVSO provides a medium for the exchange
21 of ideas, information, training, and support to facilitate delivery
22 of services to nearly two million California veterans; and

23 WHEREAS, The CACVSO recognizes the importance and merit
24 of the congressionally chartered veterans service organizations,
25 and is committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship
26 with them for the common good of all veterans, since it is the intent
27 of all these organizations that every veteran residing in California
28 receives the benefits and services to which they are entitled by law
29 and moral obligation; and

30 WHEREAS, The CACVSO is an organization of professional
31 veterans advocates whose purpose is to mutually promote the
32 professionalism of all CVSOs; and

33 WHEREAS, Through CVSOs, the CACVSO is committed to
34 California counties to provide a vital and efficient system of
35 services and advocacy for veterans, their dependents, and their
36 survivors; and

37 WHEREAS, The State of California has adopted and is currently
38 using the CVSO model that is used in 27 other states as the primary
39 method of delivering services to veterans; and

1 WHEREAS, In California, a CVSOS plays a critical role in the
2 veterans advocacy system and is often the initial contact in the
3 community for veterans services; and

4 WHEREAS, The CVSOSs and the California Department of
5 Veterans Affairs work closely together to assist California's
6 veterans in obtaining federal and state veterans benefits, with
7 CVSOSs serving as the "boots on the ground" for the department;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, CVSOSs are primarily funded by the counties, and
10 receive some state funding; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 1995, CVSOSs have assisted veterans in
12 qualifying for and receiving \$4.6 billion in federal benefits, which
13 are sent directly to veterans and ultimately spent in the local
14 economy; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 2013–14 fiscal year, CVSOSs assisted
16 California's veterans in filing claims with the federal government
17 that resulted in payments of more than \$545 million, an increase
18 of over 23 percent from the \$445 million that the CVSOSs helped
19 veterans claim during the previous fiscal year, which is attributable
20 to increased state funding, from \$2.6 million in 2013 to \$5.6 million
21 in 2014, which allowed CVSOS offices to increase outreach
22 activities and hire additional staff to assist veterans in the claims
23 process; and

24 WHEREAS, CVSOSs are responsible for planning and
25 administering a countywide program, so they must be
26 knowledgeable about all entitlements, programs, and ancillary
27 services as administered by the United States Department of
28 Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the California
29 Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal, state, and local
30 agencies; and

31 WHEREAS, The CACVSO has raised the professionalism of
32 all CVSOSs through training and working to improve the federal
33 claims process with the California Department of Veterans Affairs,
34 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and
35 congressionally chartered veterans service organizations; and

36 WHEREAS, The CACVSO promotes the welfare and rights of
37 veterans statewide through legislative advocacy, provides training
38 and education to CVSOSs and their employees, promotes the mission
39 of CVSOSs throughout the state, and provides members of the

1 CACVSO with a collaborative network of resources, information,
2 and ideas; now, therefore, be it

3 ~~Resolved BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF~~
4 ~~CALIFORNIA, THE SENATE THEREOF CONCURRING, by~~
5 *the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof*
6 *concurring,* That the Legislature commends the California
7 Association of County Veterans Service Officers for 70 years of
8 service to California’s veterans and their families through the
9 advancement of professionalism within its ranks and the pursuit
10 of advocacy across all levels of government so that veterans may
11 receive the benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their
12 military service to our country; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the CACVSO has maintained and nurtured the
14 high professional standards of California’s CVSOs so that these
15 veterans advocates can fulfill the CACVSO’s slogan of “Serving
16 Those Who Served”; and be it further

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