

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

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, Mathis, ~~and Olsen~~ Olsen, Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dahle, Dodd, Eggman, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mayes, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Bates, Block, Hall, Hertzberg, Moorlach, 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 (CVSO) after World War I to assist
3 California's veterans to obtain the federal veterans benefits they
4 earned by virtue of their service to our country; and

5 WHEREAS, San Bernardino established the first CVSO office
6 in California in 1926, and at least 10 other counties with large
7 veteran populations also established CVSO offices between World
8 War I and World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, At the end of World War II, most California
10 counties recognized the need to help their returning veterans to
11 obtain federal benefits and quickly established CVSO offices in
12 their counties; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1945, with the end of World War II and the
14 return of thousands of veterans to California, the California
15 Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) was
16 formed; and

17 WHEREAS, The CACVSO was created to assist returning
18 veterans in accessing their earned entitlements as authorized by
19 Congress, such as the GI Bill for education and the veteran home
20 loan program, as well as compensation and pension benefits for
21 wounded veterans and their families; and

22 WHEREAS, The CACVSO promotes state and federal
23 legislation and policy supportive of veterans' rights and issues, in
24 harmony with our national obligation to veterans of the United
25 States Armed Forces; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, The CACVSO is an organization of professional
2 veterans advocates whose purpose is to mutually promote the
3 professionalism of all CVSOs; and

4 WHEREAS, Through CVSOs, the CACVSO is committed to
5 California counties to provide a vital and efficient system of
6 services and advocacy for veterans, their dependents, and their
7 survivors; and

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

11 WHEREAS, In California, a CVSO plays a critical role in the
12 veterans advocacy system and is often the initial contact in the
13 community for veterans services; and

14 WHEREAS, The CVSOs and the California Department of
15 Veterans Affairs work closely together to assist California's
16 veterans in obtaining federal and state veterans benefits, with
17 CVSOs serving as the "boots on the ground" for the department;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, CVSOs are primarily funded by the counties and
20 receive some state funding; and

21 WHEREAS, Since 1995, CVSOs have assisted veterans in
22 qualifying for and receiving \$4.6 billion in federal benefits, which
23 are sent directly to veterans and ultimately spent in the local
24 economy; and

25 WHEREAS, In the 2013–14 fiscal year, CVSOs assisted
26 California's veterans in filing claims with the federal government
27 that resulted in payments of more than \$545 million, an increase
28 of over 23 percent from the \$445 million that the CVSOs helped
29 veterans claim during the previous fiscal year, which is attributable
30 to increased state funding from \$2.6 million in 2013 to \$5.6 million
31 in 2014, which allowed CVSO offices to increase outreach
32 activities and hire additional staff to assist veterans in the claims
33 process; and

34 WHEREAS, CVSOs are responsible for planning and
35 administering a countywide program, so they must be
36 knowledgeable about all entitlements, programs, and ancillary
37 services as administered by the United States Department of
38 Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the California
39 Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal, state, and local
40 agencies; and

1 WHEREAS, The CACVSO has raised the professionalism of
2 all CVSOs through training and working to improve the federal
3 claims process with the California Department of Veterans Affairs,
4 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and
5 congressionally chartered veterans service organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, The CACVSO promotes the welfare and rights of
7 veterans statewide through legislative advocacy, provides training
8 and education to CVSOs and their employees, promotes the mission
9 of CVSOs throughout the state, and provides members of the
10 CACVSO with a collaborative network of resources, information,
11 and ideas; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved* by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate
13 thereof concurring, That the Legislature commends the California
14 Association of County Veterans Service Officers for 70 years of
15 service to California's veterans and their families through the
16 advancement of professionalism within its ranks and the pursuit
17 of advocacy across all levels of government so that veterans may
18 receive the benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their
19 military service to our country; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the CACVSO has maintained and nurtured the
21 high professional standards of California's CVSOs so that these
22 veterans advocates can fulfill the CACVSO's slogan of "Serving
23 Those Who Served"; and be it further

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