

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting

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

March 3, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 41—Relative to Sunshine Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 41, as amended, Ting. Sunshine Week.

This measure would designate March 15, 2015, through March 21, 2015, as Sunshine Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California has a long tradition in support of open
- 2 government and access to government records; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1953, California enacted the Ralph M. Brown
2 Act guaranteeing the public’s right to attend and participate in
3 local governing bodies; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1967, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act was
5 adopted to mandate open meetings of state agencies, boards, and
6 commissions; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1968, California enacted the California Public
8 Records Act that expressly declared that “access to information
9 concerning the conduct of the people’s business is a fundamental
10 and necessary right of every person in this state”; and

11 WHEREAS, California voters approved Proposition 59, a state
12 constitutional amendment, also known as the “Sunshine
13 Amendment,” in 2004 that furthers open government protections
14 and the rights of voters; and

15 WHEREAS, California voters approved Proposition 42, a state
16 constitutional amendment, in 2014 to affirm the people’s mandate
17 for open government; and

18 WHEREAS, California entrepreneurs created the information
19 technology revolution and are creating opportunities for
20 government to use technology to improve performance,
21 transparency, and trust; and

22 WHEREAS, Open government reforms continue to spread across
23 the country, including the adoption of open data policies to urge
24 innovation and economic development through the use of
25 high-value government data that can be freely accessed, modified,
26 and shared; and

27 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama issued an Open
28 Government Directive to all federal departments and agencies that
29 required the federal government to take steps towards a more open
30 government including publishing government information online
31 with the presumption of openness, to improve the quality of
32 government information, and to institutionalize a culture of open
33 government within departments and agencies; and

34 WHEREAS, The state of California was one of the first states
35 to launch an open data repository (data.ca.gov), designed to provide
36 a single source of raw data in the state; and

37 WHEREAS, State agencies, including the California Health and
38 Human Services Agency and the State Controller’s office, have
39 shown leadership in creating portals that showcase government

1 data in an interactive and searchable format that enhances its value
2 and utility; and

3 WHEREAS, Many local governments have been leaders in open
4 records and public meetings and the Cities of San Francisco,
5 Sacramento, San Diego, Oakland, West Sacramento, and Los
6 Angeles and the Counties of Los Angeles and San Mateo have
7 adopted Open Data policies; and

8 WHEREAS, Numerous California cities have named Chief Data
9 Officers, and local government agencies have launched Open Data
10 portals; and

11 WHEREAS, With an inaugural grant from the Knight
12 Foundation, the American Society of News Editors launched
13 Sunshine Week in March 2005, and it continues to be celebrated
14 each year in mid-March to coincide with National Freedom of
15 Information Day and President James Madison’s birthday on March
16 16; and

17 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is now a national initiative to
18 promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and
19 freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic
20 groups, libraries, nonprofit entities, schools, and others interested
21 in the public’s right to know; and

22 WHEREAS, The coverage, commentaries, and activities
23 promoting open government during Sunshine Week have led to
24 tangible, meaningful changes to people’s lives, and the laws that
25 govern them; and

26 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is increasing public awareness and
27 people are playing more of a role in the actions that affect their
28 communities. People are learning what kinds of information they
29 have a right to see, how and where to obtain that information, and
30 what to do if someone tries to prevent them from accessing it; now,
31 therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring,* That Sunshine Week is a celebration of the
34 public’s commitment to openness and an exploration of what open
35 government means in a technology-enhanced future; and be it
36 further

37 *Resolved,* That the Legislature hereby designates March 15,
38 2015, through March 21, 2015, as Sunshine Week and encourages
39 all Californians to participate in appropriate activities relating to
40 open government and access to public information; and be it 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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