

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 14, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 45

Introduced by Assembly Member Grove

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chávez, Cooley, Dahle, Dodd,
Beth Gaines, Gatto, Lackey, Mathis, Olsen, Patterson, Steinorth,
Wagner, Waldron, and Wilk)*

(Coauthors: Senators Bates and Leno)

March 11, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 45—Relative to the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 45, as amended, Grove. Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933.

This measure would remember and honor the millions of victims of the man-made Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as “Holodomor,” and their descendants who are living throughout California. The measure would also designate November 26, 2016, as Holodomor Remembrance Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as
2 “Holodomor,” was a man-made famine that caused the deaths of
3 at least five million innocent men, women, and children in Ukraine,
4 resulting in an annihilation of an estimated 25 percent of the rural
5 population of that country, one of the most productive agricultural
6 areas of the Soviet Union; and

1 WHEREAS, This man-made famine also resulted in the deaths
2 of an estimated one to two million people in regions outside
3 Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnic Ukrainian North Caucasus
4 territory; and

5 WHEREAS, These millions of people were starved to death by
6 forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet
7 Union; and

8 WHEREAS, Western observers and scholars who accurately
9 reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were
10 subjected to disparagement and criticism for their reporting; and

11 WHEREAS, The Soviet Union and many scholars in the West
12 denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet
13 Union in 1991 when Soviet Union archives became accessible,
14 thereby making the documentation of the premeditated nature of
15 the famine and its harsh enforcement possible; and

16 WHEREAS, The final report of the U.S. Commission on the
17 Ukraine Famine, established on December 13, 1985, concluded
18 that the victims were “starved to death in a man-made ~~famine;~~”
19 *famine*”; and

20 WHEREAS, Although the famine was one of the greatest losses
21 of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains
22 insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The official recognition of the famine by the
25 government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
26 represents a significant step in the reestablishment of Ukraine’s
27 national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a
28 democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the
29 Western community of nations; and

30 WHEREAS, Whether Ukrainian immigrants were fleeing
31 political oppression or religious persecution to pursue better lives
32 for themselves and their families, the desire to live in peace and
33 enjoy liberty was so valued that it drew generations of Ukrainian
34 immigrants to the United States and California in an effort to
35 rebuild their lives; and

36 WHEREAS, California is now home to the third largest
37 Ukrainian-American population in the United States, and
38 Ukrainians living in California have enriched our state through
39 their leadership and contributions in ~~business, agriculture,~~
40 *agriculture, business*, academia, government, and the arts; and

1 WHEREAS, In August 2015, a memorial to the millions who
2 perished in the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as
3 “Holodomor,” was erected in the United States capital, and the
4 dedication ceremony took place on November 7, 2015; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the millions of victims of the man-made
8 Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as “Holodomor,” and
9 their descendants living throughout California should be solemnly
10 remembered and honored; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 26, 2016,
12 as Holodomor Remembrance Day in California and encourages
13 individual citizens, educators, businesses, groups, organizations,
14 and public institutions to observe Holodomor Remembrance Day
15 with appropriate activities designed to honor the victims and
16 educate Californians about this tragedy; 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.