

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 28

Introduced by Assembly Member Obernolte

January 26, 2016

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 28—Relative to daylight saving time.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 28, as introduced, Obernolte. Daylight saving time.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President to enact legislation that would allow a state to adopt daylight saving time year round.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The State of California is committed to attaining
2 50 percent of its energy generation from renewable sources and
3 to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below
4 its 1990 level by 2030; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the state to employ any
6 and all means of energy reduction that will reduce reliance and
7 pressure on energy infrastructure in the state; and

8 WHEREAS, Daylight saving time was a widely used 20th
9 century energy reduction tool that can be expanded to meet 21st
10 century energy shortages; and

11 WHEREAS, A 2008 federal Department of Energy report
12 concluded that extended daylight saving time saves the United
13 States approximately 0.5 percent energy each day that it is used,
14 and;

15 WHEREAS, A report by the State Energy Resources
16 Conservation and Development Commission, issued in May 2001,

1 and titled “Effects of Daylight Saving Time on California
2 Electricity Use,” indicates that winter daylight saving time, as that
3 term is defined in the report, would likely reduce electricity use
4 by 3,400 megawatt hours per day and that summer double daylight
5 saving time, as that term is defined in the report, would likely
6 reduce electricity use by 1,500 megawatt hours per day, producing
7 a cost savings of \$300,000,000 to \$1,025,000,000 per year for
8 California ratepayers; and

9 WHEREAS, A 2004 study from Rutgers University titled “The
10 Effects of Daylight and Daylight Saving Time on United States
11 Pedestrian Fatalities and Motor Vehicle Occupant Fatalities” found
12 that year-round daylight saving time would reduce pedestrian
13 fatalities by 171 or 13 percent of all pedestrian fatalities per year
14 in the 5 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. time periods and reduce motor
15 vehicle occupants fatalities by 195 or 3 percent per year in the
16 same time period; and

17 WHEREAS, A 2015 study in The Review of Economics and
18 Statistics titled “Under the Cover of Darkness: How Ambient Light
19 Influences Criminal Activity” estimated a 7 percent decrease in
20 robberies following the shift to daylight saving time; and

21 WHEREAS, Scientists have connected a number of health
22 consequences with the act of switching between standard time and
23 daylight saving time, including greater risks of heart attacks, more
24 frequent traffic accidents and workplace injuries, and increased
25 suicide rates in the days immediately after the switch; and

26 WHEREAS, The citizens of California are being asked to make
27 major changes in their personal and professional lives to conserve
28 energy and would be grateful to receive the benefits of year-round
29 daylight saving time in return; and

30 WHEREAS, Although neither standard time nor daylight saving
31 time produces much energy reduction for the coldest states during
32 the more frigid months of the year, California enjoys a temperate
33 climate that would afford greater reductions in energy use by
34 utilizing a year-round daylight saving time plan; and

35 WHEREAS, The federal Uniform Time Act of 1966 allows
36 states to decline application of daylight saving time and provides
37 states with the option of practicing standard time year round, but
38 does not allow states to practice daylight saving time year round;
39 and

1 WHEREAS, By applying daylight saving time uniformly, the
2 state could avoid any inconsistencies in time application that would
3 otherwise impact and confuse the broadcasting, rail, airline, and
4 motor coach industries; and

5 WHEREAS, In House of Representatives Report No. 99-185
6 from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, numerous benefits
7 are listed in support of the extension of daylight saving time,
8 including significant energy conservation, improved traffic safety,
9 reduction in crime, economic growth, and overwhelming public
10 support; and

11 WHEREAS, The state would greatly benefit from having the
12 option of extending daylight saving time year round; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
15 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
16 respectfully memorializes the United States Congress and the
17 President of the United States to enact legislation that would allow
18 a state to adopt daylight saving time year round; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
21 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
22 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
23 United States.