

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 38

Introduced by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

April 27, 2016

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 38—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 38, as introduced, Eduardo Garcia. Foreign nationals: CHANGE Act.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to pass, and the President of the United States to sign, the Correcting Hurtful and Alienating Names in Government Expression (CHANGE) Act.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California has over 10 million immigrants – one
2 in four of the foreign-born population nationwide;
3 WHEREAS, California is home to large groups of immigrants
4 from more than 60 countries; and
5 WHEREAS, Immigrants are projected to make up 27 percent
6 of the state’s population in 2030, the same share as in 2013; and
7 WHEREAS, Immigrants are a keystone part of our culture,
8 politics, and society and have helped shape California’s strong
9 identity; and
10 WHEREAS, More than a third of working-age adults in the state
11 are immigrants, contributing largely to our state’s entrepreneurial
12 and economic success; and
13 WHEREAS, Immigration remains at the center of national
14 debate and particular words have become hurtful; and

1 WHEREAS, The terms “illegal” and “alien,” when used in
2 reference to people, have undergone demeaning and derogatory
3 connotations and have become increasingly associated with racist
4 sentiments; and

5 WHEREAS, The legitimacy of the word “alien” as a legal
6 definition is being called into question with our state’s passage of
7 Senate Bill 432 in 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, Prominent media and newspaper organizations
9 nationwide have stopped using the terms “illegal” and “alien” to
10 describe people immigrating to, and residing in, the United States;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1850 of the 2015-16 Regular Session
13 would delete the word “illegal” and would also replace the word
14 “alien” with “foreign national” in provisions of the California
15 Education Code if federal law also makes the same changes; and

16 WHEREAS, United States House Representative Joaquin Castro
17 has introduced H. R. 3785 in the 114th Congress, also known as
18 the Correcting Hurtful and Alienating Names in Government
19 Expression (CHANGE) Act, that would prohibit federal executive
20 agencies from using the derogatory term “alien” to refer to an
21 individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
24 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urge the United States
25 Congress to pass, and the President of the United States to sign,
26 the Correcting Hurtful and Alienating Names in Government
27 Expression (CHANGE) Act; and be it further

28 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
30 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
31 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
32 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
33 States.