

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis

February 25, 2015

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to disabled veterans business enterprise.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 7, as introduced, Mathis. Disabled veterans: first businesses.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States of America to further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available to disabled veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Men and women of the State of California
- 2 volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States in
- 3 greater numbers than those from any other state; and
- 4 WHEREAS, California is currently home to more than 1,800,000
- 5 veterans of our Armed Forces; and
- 6 WHEREAS, California veterans have been grateful recipients
- 7 of the financial support of their fellow Americans through the
- 8 Veterans Administration and the GI Bill; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed, and
- 10 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the GI Bill of Rights in
- 11 1944 to support our veterans of World War II in their transition
- 12 back to civilian life; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States in 2008 added
- 14 significant new benefits for those who enlisted to serve the nation

1 in the wake of the attacks on the United States on September 11,
2 2001; and

3 WHEREAS, Up to 10 percent of veterans choose to start, run,
4 and own their own businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Over 30 percent of veterans of Operation Iraqi
6 Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other fronts on the
7 war against terrorism are receiving disability ratings from the
8 federal Veterans Administration; and

9 WHEREAS, More than five million Americans, including over
10 one-half million Californians, served in these conflicts; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of California is the recognized national
12 leader in the establishment and success of disabled veteran business
13 owner procurement support programs; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of California established its Disabled
15 Veteran Business Enterprise program not only to recognize the
16 contributions of our veterans to our national well-being, but also
17 as a rehabilitation measure to assist veteran entrepreneurs to catch
18 up to their civilian business owner cohorts; and

19 WHEREAS, Disabled veteran businesses make a significant
20 contribution to the state's economy and serve as a source of
21 employment for fellow veterans; and

22 WHEREAS, Finding enough capital to successfully launch a
23 new business or buy an existing business is the largest challenge
24 that new business owners face; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature requests that the Congress
27 of the United States of America further amend the GI Bill of Rights
28 to make benefits available, with all appropriate safeguards, to
29 disabled veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of
30 first businesses; and be it further

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