

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 7

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis**  
***(Coauthor: Assembly Member Chávez)***

February 25, 2015

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

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 7, as amended, Mathis. ~~Disabled veterans:~~ *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

1 1944 to support our veterans of World War II in their transition  
2 back to civilian life; and

3 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States in 2008 added  
4 significant new benefits for those who enlisted to serve the nation  
5 in the wake of the attacks on the United States on September 11,  
6 2001; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Over 30 percent of veterans of Operation Iraqi  
10 Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other fronts on the  
11 war against terrorism are receiving disability ratings from the  
12 federal Veterans Administration; and

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

15 WHEREAS, The State of California is the recognized national  
16 leader in the establishment and success of disabled veteran business  
17 owner procurement support programs; and

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

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

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

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

35 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
36 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
37 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
38 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States.

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