AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 14, 2015

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

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 7, as amended, Mathis. 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 veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses.

Fiscal committee: no.

WHEREAS, Men and women of the State of California volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States in greater numbers than those from any other state; and

WHEREAS, California is currently home to more than 1,800,000 veterans of our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, California veterans have been grateful recipients of the financial support of their fellow Americans through the Veterans Administration and the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the GI Bill of Rights in

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, More than five million Americans, including over one-half million Californians, served in ~~these~~ *those* conflicts; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

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