

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 151

Introduced by Assembly Members Mullin and Brough
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Baker, Bigelow, Chang, Chávez, Daly, Dodd, Gallagher, Hadley, Jones, Lackey, Mathis, McCarty, O'Donnell, Quirk, Wagner, ~~and Waldron~~ *Waldron, Achadjian, Alejo, Bonilla, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chu, Cooley, Dahle, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Harper, Roger Hernández, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Maienschein, Mayes, Melendez, Nazarian, Obernolte, Olsen, Patterson, Rendon, Rodriguez, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Weber, Wilk, and Williams*)

(Coauthors: Senators Bates and McGuire)

March 7, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 151—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 151, as amended, Mullin. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2016 as Irish American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to the country and state.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship
- 2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United

1 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising
2 future for themselves and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, The journey to America from the Emerald Isle was
4 not paved with gold. The Irish spirit of determination, perseverance,
5 and grit prevailed against dangerous seas and deadly conditions
6 with their hearts set on the horizon; and

7 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and
8 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years
9 went on, Irish Americans became deeply integrated in their
10 communities and made numerous contributions in all aspects of
11 American society and culture; and

12 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the
13 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were
14 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 22 Presidents of
15 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.
16 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

17 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to
18 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
19 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy
20 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and Senator George
21 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

22 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in
23 California politics as governors, legislative leaders, city mayors,
24 and other public officials, who have worked tirelessly to build
25 California to the state that it is today; and

26 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were significantly involved in the
27 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
28 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
29 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also
30 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
31 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

32 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark as
33 peace officers and firefighters, and have risked or lost their lives
34 on countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

35 WHEREAS, Many outstanding soldiers, never to be forgotten,
36 who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War were
37 of Irish descent. Irish Americans have proudly served with
38 distinction in every war that this nation has fought and continue
39 to do so today; and

1 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
2 the United States economy in business, including: Alexander
3 Stewart, the inventor of the American department store; Cathleen
4 Black, president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president
5 and chief executive officer of General Electric; Herb Kelleher,
6 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; Paul Adams of Facebook; John
7 Donahoe, chief executive officer of eBay, Inc.; Conrad Burke,
8 founder of Innovalight; and Maggie Sullivan Wilderotter, chief
9 executive officer of Frontier Communications; and

10 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
11 science, including: astronaut, Michael Collins; first female
12 commander of a space shuttle, Eileen Collins; physicist and Nobel
13 Laureate, Charles Townes; and bioengineer and MacArthur
14 “Genius grant” recipient, James Collins; and

15 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American
16 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery
17 O’Connor, Eugene O’Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,
18 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

19 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American
20 entertainment with such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John
21 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;
22 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O’Donnell; actor
23 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;
24 actress and singer Judy Garland; comedian Conan O’Brien; and
25 actor and director Edward Burns, all being of Irish heritage; and

26 WHEREAS, Today, over 34 million Americans claim Irish
27 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and
28 California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude
31 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a
32 better country and state for all people, designates March 2016 to
33 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon
34 the people of the state to observe the month of March with
35 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on
36 March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day; and be it
37 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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