

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 202

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

August 17, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 202—Relative to Native American atrocities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 202, as introduced, Alejo. Native American atrocities.

This measure would acknowledge that the State of California engaged in atrocities against Native Americans within the state and would profusely apologize to Native Americans in California for these inexcusable actions.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1850, one of the first acts performed by the
2 Legislature was to prevent Native Americans from accessing and
3 participating in the legal and political system by prohibiting them
4 from voting, serving as jurors, or serving as attorneys; and
5 WHEREAS, In 1850, the Legislature also essentially allowed
6 the enslavement of Native Americans by legalizing custody of
7 Native American minors, and in 1860, the Legislature went further
8 by legalizing the indentured servitude of any Native American;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, The State of California collaborated with vigilantes
11 and the federal government in forcibly transferring Native
12 American children from one tribe to another, which fractured native
13 families; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1851, California Governor Peter Burnett declared
2 that “a war of extermination will continue to be waged ... until the
3 Indian race becomes extinct”; and

4 WHEREAS, Multiple governors of California authorized at
5 least 24 state militia expeditions between 1850 and 1861, which
6 killed an estimated 1,340 Native Americans, demolished Native
7 American villages and agricultural centers, and displaced many
8 tribes from the California locales they had inhabited for thousands
9 of years; and

10 WHEREAS, The state-sponsored killing of Native Americans
11 also enabled and encouraged vigilantes to kill at least 6,460 Native
12 Americans in California between 1846 and 1873; and

13 WHEREAS, California’s native population fell dramatically,
14 from nearly 150,000 in 1846 to 30,000 in 1870; now, therefore,
15 be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature acknowledges that the
18 State of California engaged in atrocities against Native Americans
19 within the state, and profusely apologizes to the Native Americans
20 in California for these inexcusable actions; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the various Native American tribes that reside
23 within the State of California, the Governor of the State of
24 California, and to the author for appropriate distribution.