

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 398

Introduced by Assembly Member Campos

February 19, 2015

An act to add Division 3.2 (commencing with Section 600) to Title 1 of the Government Code, relating to the California Embassy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 398, as amended, Campos. California Embassy.

Existing law provides for the establishment of various commissions and offices that promote the interests of this state, including the California Travel and Tourism Commission and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

This bill would authorize the ~~California Travel and Tourism Commission~~ *Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)* to accept submissions of any plan of any organization that is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a California Embassy in the District of Columbia within a one-mile radius of the United States Capitol building. This bill would require the plan to contain specified information. The bill would authorize ~~the commission~~ *GO-Biz* to approve the plan of any organization that they determine will establish, operate, and maintain a California Embassy that meets specified criteria. The bill would require any organization whose plan is approved by ~~the commission~~ *GO-Biz* to submit a report to ~~the commission~~ *GO-Biz* every 2 years, beginning

on the date 2 years after the plan is approved, on the status of the California Embassy and how those specified criteria are being met.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Division 3.2 (commencing with Section 600) is
2 added to Title 1 of the Government Code, to read:

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DIVISION 3.2. CALIFORNIA EMBASSY

6 600. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

7 (a) California is the ~~largest~~ *most populous* state with the ~~biggest~~
8 *largest* economy in the nation.

9 (b) California has the eighth largest economy in the world, with
10 over \$2 trillion in gross domestic product.

11 (c) California has great diversity in its people and its cultures.

12 (d) California is the most populous state, with over 38 million
13 people.

14 (e) Therefore, California should be represented in our nation’s
15 capital in the establishment of a California Embassy so that the
16 role that California plays in our nation is highlighted.

17 601. (a) ~~The California Travel and Tourism Commission~~
18 *Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development*
19 *(GO-Biz)* may accept submissions of any plan of any organization
20 that is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described
21 in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed for
22 the purpose of establishing and maintaining a California Embassy
23 in the District of Columbia within a one-mile radius of the United
24 States Capitol building.

25 (b) The plan shall contain the following information:

26 (1) How the organization intends to establish the California
27 Embassy.

28 (2) How the organization intends to raise the funding necessary
29 to establish the California Embassy.

30 (3) How the organization intends to maintain and operate the
31 California Embassy once it is established.

32 (4) Any other relevant information ~~the commission~~ *GO-Biz*
33 deems necessary.

- 1 (c) ~~The commission~~ *GO-Biz* may approve the plan of any
2 organization that it determines will establish, operate, and maintain
3 a California Embassy that meets all of the following criteria:
4 (1) Showcases California’s cultural diversity.
5 (2) Showcases California’s higher education opportunities.
6 (3) Showcases California’s recreational and tourism
7 opportunities.
8 (4) Provides resources to Californians in the District of
9 Columbia.
10 (5) Provides a place of refuge for Californians in the District of
11 Columbia.
12 (d) The plan shall be in the form, and submitted in the manner,
13 as may be determined by ~~the commission~~ *GO-Biz*.
14 602. Any organization whose plan is approved by ~~the California~~
15 ~~Travel and Tourism Commission~~ *GO-Biz* pursuant to Section 601
16 shall submit a report to ~~the commission~~ *GO-Biz* every two years,
17 beginning on the date two years after the plan is approved, on the
18 status of the California Embassy and how the criteria in subdivision
19 (c) of Section 601 are being met.