

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 19, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 5

Introduced by Senator Nguyen

(Coauthors: Senators ~~Hertzberg and Huff~~ *Hertzberg, Huff, and Runner*)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chávez, Chu, Kim, and McCarty)

March 10, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to humanitarian resettlement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as amended, Nguyen. Vietnam: humanitarian resettlement.

This measure would urge Congress and the President of the United States to expand the Humanitarian Resettlement Program to allow disabled veteran officers of the South Vietnamese Army currently living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to enter the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Vietnamese-American community plays an
- 2 important role in the social, cultural, and economic landscape of
- 3 the State of California and the United States; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The United States government and the American
- 5 people have a commitment to assisting individuals that fought as
- 6 allies in the Vietnam War and continue to face persecution and
- 7 threats from the Communist government of the Socialist Republic
- 8 of Vietnam; and

1 WHEREAS, The veterans of the South Vietnamese Army, also
2 known as the Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, showed their
3 commitment to the United States by fighting alongside the United
4 States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

5 WHEREAS, The Humanitarian Resettlement Program and the
6 Orderly Departure Program have allowed for the resettlement to
7 the United States of former reeducation center detainees, former
8 Vietnamese employees of the United States government, and
9 former Vietnamese employees of private American companies
10 and organizations prior to April 30, 1975, and from 1997 to 2009,
11 inclusive, sons and daughters of former Vietnamese were included
12 in what became known as the McCain Amendment; and

13 WHEREAS, Disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army,
14 also known as the Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, have suffered
15 a lifetime of great challenges and discrimination. Yet, some
16 disabled veterans were excluded from the Humanitarian
17 Resettlement Program and the Orderly Departure Program because
18 they were not detained in reeducation camps for the requisite
19 number of years due to their physical disabilities; and

20 WHEREAS, April 30, 2015, marks the 40th year since the Fall
21 of Saigon; and

22 WHEREAS, Promoting the Humanitarian Resettlement Program
23 and the Orderly Departure Program to include disabled veterans
24 of the South Vietnamese Army, also known as the Quân Lực Việt
25 Nam Cộng Hòa, and their sons and daughters, would rightfully
26 bring these veterans and their families into programs that, by their
27 terms, excluded some ~~disable~~ *disabled* veterans; now, therefore,
28 be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
30 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the
31 President and the Vice President of the United States and the
32 United States Congress to reauthorize the Humanitarian
33 Resettlement Program and the Orderly Departure Program to allow
34 disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army and their families
35 currently living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to apply to
36 enter the United States; and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
38 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
39 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
40 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative

- 1 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
- 2 author for appropriate distribution.

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