

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 25, 2015

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, Huff, and Runner)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chávez, Chu, Kim, ~~and McCarty~~
McCarty, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chiu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

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

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

13 WHEREAS, The Humanitarian Resettlement Program and the
14 Orderly Departure Program have allowed for the resettlement to
15 the United States of former reeducation center detainees, former
16 Vietnamese employees of the United States government, and
17 former Vietnamese employees of private American companies
18 and organizations prior to April 30, 1975, and from 1997 to 2009,
19 inclusive, sons and daughters of former Vietnamese were included
20 in what became known as the McCain Amendment; and

21 WHEREAS, Disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army,
22 also known as the Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa, have suffered
23 a lifetime of great challenges and discrimination. Yet, some
24 disabled veterans were excluded from the Humanitarian
25 Resettlement Program and the Orderly Departure Program because
26 they were not detained in reeducation camps for the requisite
27 number of years due to their physical disabilities; and

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

30 WHEREAS, Promoting the Humanitarian Resettlement Program
31 and the Orderly Departure Program to include disabled veterans
32 of the South Vietnamese Army, also known as the Quân Lực Việt
33 Nam Cộng Hòa, and their sons and daughters, would rightfully
34 bring these veterans and their families into programs that, by their
35 terms, excluded some disabled veterans; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
37 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the
38 President and the Vice President of the United States and the

1 United States Congress to reauthorize the Humanitarian
2 Resettlement Program and the Orderly Departure Program to allow
3 disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army and their families
4 currently living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to apply to
5 enter the United States; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
7 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
8 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative
10 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
11 author for appropriate distribution.