

Introduced by Senator Mendoza

January 4, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to India Republic Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 91, as introduced, Mendoza. India Republic Day.

This measure would proclaim January 26, 2016, as India Republic Day, and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating India Republic Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Republic Day is one of the three national holidays
2 of India and is celebrated every year on January 26. It was during
3 the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress at midnight
4 of December 31, 1929, to January 1, 1930, inclusive, that the
5 tricolor flag was unfurled by the nationalists and a pledge was
6 taken that on January 26 of every year, “Republic Day” would be
7 celebrated and that the people would unceasingly strive for the
8 establishment of a sovereign democratic republic. The professed
9 pledge was successfully redeemed on January 26, 1950, when the
10 Constitution of India framed by the Constituent Assembly of India
11 came into force, although independence from British rule was
12 already achieved on August 15, 1947; and

13 WHEREAS, Although India obtained its independence on
14 August 15, 1947, it did not yet have a permanent constitution.
15 Instead, its laws were based on the modified colonial Government
16 of India Act 1935, and the country was a dominion, with King
17 George VI as head of state and Earl Mountbatten as Governor

1 General of India. On August 28, 1947, the drafting committee was
2 appointed to draft a permanent constitution, with Bhimrao Ramji
3 Ambedkar as chairman. While India's Independence Day celebrates
4 its freedom from British rule, Republic Day celebrates the coming
5 into force of its constitution; and

6 WHEREAS, A draft constitution was prepared by the committee
7 and submitted to the Constituent Assembly of India on November
8 4, 1947. The assembly met, in sessions open to the public, for 166
9 days, spread over a period of two years, 11 months, and 18 days
10 before adopting the constitution. After many deliberations and
11 some modifications, the 308 members of the assembly signed two
12 handwritten copies of the document, one each in Hindi and English,
13 on January 24, 1950. Two days later, the Constitution of India
14 became the law of all the Indian lands; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, Republic Day is celebrated with much
16 enthusiasm all over the country and especially in New Delhi, the
17 capital of India where celebrations commence at the presidential
18 level. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder
19 of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the
20 freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of
21 sovereignty of the country. The president awards medals of bravery
22 to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage
23 in the field and also the civilians who have distinguished
24 themselves by their different acts of valor in situations; and

25 WHEREAS, The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings
26 the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every
27 part of the country is represented on this occasion, which makes
28 Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Republic Day serves to remind us that the
31 foundation of any nation and our state is in its people, in their spirit
32 and courage in the face of adversity, and in their willingness to
33 sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

34 WHEREAS, Republic Day offers an opportunity to reflect on
35 the many achievements of the large Asian Indian community here
36 in California, which is home to the largest population of Asian
37 Indians in the United States; and

38 WHEREAS, Achievements by Asian Indians in America and
39 California include contributions to all facets of our community,

1 including our culture and society through their achievements in
2 food, medicine, business, and technology; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims January
5 26, 2016, as India Republic Day, and urges all Californians to join
6 in celebrating India Republic Day; and be it further
7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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