

Introduced by Senator Nielsen

**(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Bates, Gaines, Pan, Stone, and
Vidak)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Beth Gaines, and Gallagher)

May 9, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 141—Relative to Slavic Heritage Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 141, as introduced, Nielsen. Slavic Heritage Day.

This measure would recognize May 24, 2016, as Slavic Heritage Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the Slavic people have
2 sustained a cultural diversity that showcases the rich traditions of
3 the Slavic ethnicities represented within the modern-day European
4 nations of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
5 Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro,
6 Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia; and

7 WHEREAS, Since the first Slavic settlers and traders set foot
8 in what is now Alaska and settled on the Aleutian island of Kodiak
9 in 1784, the Slavic people have been contributing bountifully to
10 the culture and history of the United States and have achieved
11 great success, strengthened the country, and helped shape the
12 American way of life through their deep commitment to faith,
13 family, and community; and

14 WHEREAS, When the first Slavic settlers came to this country,
15 they sought a place of promise where they could live in peace,
16 enjoy liberty, and economically prosper; and

1 WHEREAS, During the 19th century a number of Slavic
2 immigrants entered the United States as indentured servants who
3 were bonded to their masters and worked in mines, mills, or
4 sweatshops or as servants to end their indenture and earn their
5 freedom; and

6 WHEREAS, Whether Slavic immigrants were fleeing oppression
7 or persecution or simply pursuing better lives for themselves and
8 their families, the desire to live in peace and eventually enjoy
9 liberty was so dearly valued that it drew generations of Slavic
10 immigrants to the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, With longstanding roots in California that date
13 back more than 200 years with the establishment of colonies
14 including Fort Ross in 1812 by Russian settlers, the Slavic
15 community has forged its influence on the state through providing
16 support to settlers, crafts, technologies, and commercial enterprise;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Slavic American community has brought
19 invaluable cultural contributions to California by introducing its
20 rich culture, literature, and alphabet, which traces its origins to
21 ninth century Bulgaria, and these contributions have enhanced the
22 diversity and progress, as well as the cultural heritage, that the
23 state has and will continue to enjoy; and

24 WHEREAS, Slavic figure skaters, ballet dancers, symphony
25 orchestra conductors, composers and musicians, dancing bears,
26 literature, dramatic theatrical performances, and American
27 thespians such as Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, and Jack
28 Nicholson who were influenced by the methods of renowned Slavic
29 coaches which permeated Hollywood films and the Broadway
30 stage are ubiquitous in contemporary American life; and

31 WHEREAS, Renowned Hollywood film creators, including
32 Alfred Hitchcock and Francis Ford Coppola, have cited their
33 inspiration for film editing and montage sequences from Slavic
34 film directors, and those influences continue to this day in modern
35 filmmaking, animation, and documentary films; and

36 WHEREAS, The inescapable influences of Slavic culture upon
37 California's performing arts, entertainment, and sports have
38 reshaped the state's culture through classical dance, the San
39 Francisco Ballet Company, and musical compositions through
40 Hollywood sound studios; and

1 WHEREAS, Slavic Heritage Day is the time when the rich
2 history of Slavic Americans is celebrated and their contributions
3 to this nation are honored; and

4 WHEREAS, Slavic Americans have continued their strong
5 support for liberty and ending discrimination in voting,
6 employment, public accommodation, and in society at large by
7 prominently participating in virtually every civil rights effort in
8 the American experience, including those for women, farmworkers,
9 and the disabled; and

10 WHEREAS, As a nation of immigrants, the United States is
11 better and stronger because Slavic people from all over the world
12 have chosen to become American citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, To collectively advance the participation of Slavic
14 American businesses and ventures, the Slavic American Chamber
15 of Commerce was established with the mission to provide services
16 for, and facilitate the growth and success of, businesses that serve
17 the Slavic American community throughout California; and

18 WHEREAS, Slavic Americans continue to guide the nation's
19 progress as scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, public servants,
20 private citizens, leaders, and parents; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes May 24, 2016,
23 as Slavic Heritage Day, encourages all Californians to participate
24 in appropriate observances with activities that celebrate and
25 commemorate Slavic Heritage Day, and commends Slavic
26 Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding
27 service to the state and the nation; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
29 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.