

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 141**

**Introduced by Senator Nielsen**

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

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Beth Gaines, ~~and Gallagher~~  
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May 9, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 141, as amended, 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,

1 Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro,  
2 Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, During the 19th century a number of Slavic  
14 immigrants entered the United States as indentured servants who  
15 were bonded to their masters and worked in mines, mills, or  
16 sweatshops or as servants to end their indenture and earn their  
17 freedom; and

18 WHEREAS, Whether Slavic immigrants were fleeing oppression  
19 or persecution or simply pursuing better lives for themselves and  
20 their families, the desire to live in peace and eventually enjoy  
21 liberty was so dearly valued that it drew generations of Slavic  
22 immigrants to the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, With longstanding roots in California that date  
25 back more than 200 years with the establishment of colonies  
26 including Fort Ross in 1812 by Russian settlers, the Slavic  
27 community has forged its influence on the state through providing  
28 support to settlers, crafts, technologies, and commercial enterprise;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The Slavic American community has brought  
31 invaluable cultural contributions to California by introducing its  
32 rich culture, literature, and alphabet, which traces its origins to  
33 ninth century Bulgaria, and these contributions have enhanced the  
34 diversity and progress, as well as the cultural heritage, that the  
35 state has and will continue to enjoy; and

36 WHEREAS, Slavic figure skaters, ballet dancers, symphony  
37 orchestra conductors, composers and musicians, dancing bears,  
38 literature, dramatic theatrical performances, and American  
39 thespians such as Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, and Jack  
40 Nicholson who were influenced by the methods of renowned Slavic

1 coaches which permeated Hollywood films and the Broadway  
2 stage are ubiquitous in contemporary American life; and

3 WHEREAS, Renowned Hollywood film creators, including  
4 Alfred Hitchcock and Francis Ford Coppola, have cited their  
5 inspiration for film editing and montage sequences from Slavic  
6 film directors, and those influences continue to this day in modern  
7 filmmaking, animation, and documentary films; and

8 WHEREAS, The inescapable influences of Slavic culture upon  
9 California's performing arts, entertainment, and sports have  
10 reshaped the state's culture through classical dance, the San  
11 Francisco Ballet Company, and musical compositions through  
12 Hollywood sound studios; and

13 WHEREAS, Slavic Heritage Day is the time when the rich  
14 history of Slavic Americans is celebrated and their contributions  
15 to this nation are honored; and

16 WHEREAS, Slavic Americans have continued their strong  
17 support for liberty and ending discrimination in voting,  
18 employment, public accommodation, and in society at large by  
19 prominently participating in virtually every civil rights effort in  
20 the American experience, including those for women, farmworkers,  
21 and the disabled; and

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

25 WHEREAS, To collectively advance the participation of Slavic  
26 American businesses and ventures, the Slavic American Chamber  
27 of Commerce was established with the mission to provide services  
28 for, and facilitate the growth and success of, businesses that serve  
29 the Slavic American community throughout California; and

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

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes May 24, 2016,  
35 as Slavic Heritage Day, encourages all Californians to participate  
36 in appropriate observances with activities that celebrate and  
37 commemorate Slavic Heritage Day, and commends Slavic  
38 Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding  
39 service to the state and the nation; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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