
Introduced by Senator Anderson
(Coauthor: Senator Stone)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jones)

June 1, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 147—Relative to Historic Highway Route 79.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 147, as introduced, Anderson. Historic Highway Route 79.

This measure would designate a specified portion of Highway Route 79 in the Counties of San Diego and Riverside as Historic Highway Route 79 and request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Highway Route 79 is among the County of San
2 Diego's last three unsullied rural highways; and
3 WHEREAS, Highway Route 79 begins in the community of
4 Descanso and then climbs and winds through some of southern
5 California's most historically significant natural and manmade
6 sites; and
7 WHEREAS, Highway Route 79 then travels through Cuyamaca
8 Rancho State Park, surrounding travelers with geological and
9 geographical landmarks; and
10 WHEREAS, Highway Route 79 next winds past gold mines,
11 communities, and tiny towns that dot the primeval Cleveland
12 National Forest; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1600, those already old and overlapping trails
2 that would later become Highway Route 79 marked the way for
3 Spanish explorer Pedro Fages and those riding horses with him;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A portion of Highway Route 79 served as a
6 segment of the 2,812 mile Butterfield Overland Mail Route, which
7 was the first transcontinental postal delivery service in the country;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In other states, several portions of the Butterfield
10 Overland Mail Route have been officially registered as historic
11 places, reminding today's travelers of the bravery, determination,
12 and adventurism of those who built and travelled this famous route
13 in the 19th century; and

14 WHEREAS, Highway Route 79 further winds through Julian,
15 a community that a handful of people founded and in which gold
16 was discovered in 1870; and

17 WHEREAS, By 1908, when the state began paving Highway
18 Route 79, the route had already been used by army surveyors, pre-
19 and post-Civil War gold miners, American and European settlers,
20 Chinese workers, immigrants from the British Isles, and European
21 immigrants tired of the Austro-Hungarian wars; and

22 WHEREAS, Highway Route 79 has outstanding natural, cultural,
23 historic, and scenic qualities; and

24 WHEREAS, It is therefore appropriate to recognize a portion
25 of Highway Route 79 for its historical significance and importance
26 in the development of California and to designate that portion as
27 Historic Highway Route 79; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
30 portion of Highway Route 79 from where it intersects with
31 Interstate 8 at Japatul Valley Road in the County of San Diego to
32 its intersection with Interstate 15 in the County of Riverside as
33 Historic Highway Route 79; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
35 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with signing
36 requirements for the state highway system showing the special
37 Historic Highway Route 79 designation, and, upon receiving
38 donations from nonstate sources for that cost, to facilitate the
39 erection of those signs at appropriate locations on Highway Route
40 79; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the designation of Historic Highway Route 79
2 pursuant to this resolution shall have no impact upon the future
3 planning or development of adjacent private and public properties;
4 and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
7 for appropriate distribution.

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