

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 16, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 158

Introduced by Senators Pan and De León
(Coauthor: Senator Hall)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Atkins)

June 30, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 158—Relative to Promise Zones.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 158, as amended, Pan. Promise Zones.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to give federally designated Promise Zones priority consideration and preferred access to, and competitive preferences for, state funding, resources, and programs. The measure would urge California to explore implementation of models developed by federal programs that give preferences to Promise Zones.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, A child's ZIP Code should never determine his or
2 her destiny; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, the community a child grows up in greatly
4 impacts his or her odds of graduating from high school, health
5 outcomes, and economic opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2013, President Obama announced the
7 establishment of the Promise Zones Initiative to partner with
8 high-poverty communities across the nation to create jobs, increase
9 economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase

1 access to affordable quality housing, and improve public safety;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, On January 8, 2014, President Obama designated
4 Los Angeles, California, as one of the nation's first Promise Zones
5 and on April 28, 2015, designated Sacramento, California, as a
6 Promise Zone. This spring, President Obama will announce the
7 third round of Promise Zone designations; and

8 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone designation must have a
9 contiguous geography, an overall poverty rate at or above 33
10 percent, a high unemployment rate, and a low high school
11 graduation rate; and

12 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone ~~has~~ identified clear outcomes
13 to pursue in order to revitalize its community with a focus on
14 creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational
15 opportunities, reducing violent crime, and becoming a national
16 model for other struggling communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone will continuously track its
18 progress and share its data with community partners, including,
19 but not limited to, private sector, nonprofit, federal, state, and local
20 agencies, so that each partner can work towards improvement and
21 accountability within the Promise Zone; and

22 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone will receive competitive
23 preference and priority consideration to access federal programs
24 and resources within the United States Department of Education,
25 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,
26 the United States Department of Justice, and the United States
27 Department of Agriculture to supplement local efforts as it works
28 toward its goals; and

29 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone will be provided five full-time
30 AmeriCorps VISTA members to support its strategic plan. These
31 VISTA members will recruit and manage volunteers and strengthen
32 the capacity of the Promise Zone to expand economic
33 opportunities; and

34 WHEREAS, Each Promise Zone designation will be for a term
35 of 10 years and President Obama has proposed tax cuts on hiring
36 and investment in areas designated as Promise Zones to attract
37 businesses and create jobs; and

38 WHEREAS, As outcomes are achieved and best practices are
39 developed, federal agencies will consider expanding improvements

1 in the delivery of federal funding and services to other communities
2 seeking similar opportunities and results; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the State
5 Department of Education, the Department of Housing and
6 Community Development, the Department of Justice, and the
7 Department of Food and Agriculture to give priority consideration
8 and preferred access to state programs and resources to federally
9 designated Promise Zones in California that support job creation
10 and economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase
11 access to affordable quality housing, and improve public safety;
12 and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the State Department of Education, the
14 Department of Housing and Community Development, the
15 Department of Justice, and the Department of Food and Agriculture
16 should consider giving Promise Zones competitive preferences for
17 state funding and programs; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That California should explore implementation of the
19 same models that have been developed by the federal programs
20 that give preferences to Promise Zones; and be it further

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