

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 71

Introduced by Assembly Member Ortiz

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Aroner, Baca, Baugh, Bowen, Brown, Bustamante, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Cunneen, Davis, Ducheny, Escutia, Figueroa, Frusetta, Honda, Keeley, Kuehl, Kuykendall, Lempert, Machado, Martinez, Mazzoni, Migden, Morrissey, Murray, Napolitano, Papan, Perata, Pringle, Richter, Scott, Shelley, Strom-Martin, Sweeney, Thomson, Villaraigosa, Vincent, Washington, Wayne, Wildman, and Woods)

June 15, 1998

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 71—Relative to the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1997.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 71, as introduced, Ortiz. Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1997.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to enact, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1997 (H.R. 371).

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Immigration and Nationality Act
2 prohibits a person from being naturalized as a citizen of
3 the United States unless that person demonstrates an

1 understanding of the English language (8 U.S.C.A. Sec.
2 1423(a)(1)); and

3 WHEREAS, Many Hmongs are unable to become
4 citizens because they are unable to learn to speak and
5 write English because translation is particularly difficult
6 due to the fact that the Hmong people did not have a
7 written language of their own until the 1950's; and

8 WHEREAS, Hmong veterans served with a special
9 guerrilla unit operating from a base in Laos in support of
10 the United States in Southeast Asia from February 28,
11 1961, until September 18, 1978; and

12 WHEREAS, The Honorable Bruce Vento has
13 introduced H.R. 371, known as the Hmong Veterans'
14 Naturalization Act of 1997, which is cosponsored by
15 members of both political parties, including, but not
16 limited to, Congress Members Richard Pombo, Cal
17 Dooley, George Radonovich, Gary Condit, Vic Fazio, and
18 Robert Matsui from California; and

19 WHEREAS, The Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act
20 of 1997 would waive the English language requirements
21 of the Immigration and Nationality Act for those Hmong
22 veterans who served in the special guerrilla units in
23 Southeast Asia, as well as for their spouses or widows; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully
27 memorializes the Congress and the President of the
28 United States to enact H.R. 371; and be it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
30 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the
31 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the
32 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
33 Representative from California in the Congress of the
34 United States.

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