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**Introduced by Senator Polanco  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Wright)**

April 21, 1997

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to Indian gaming.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 20, as introduced, Polanco. Indian gaming.

This measure would memorialize the President of the United States to issue an executive order permitting the California Indian tribes to continue to operate and regulate their respective gaming operations until the time that certain studies are concluded, appropriate legislation is enacted, and compact remedies have been exhausted.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One of the most shameful chapters in our  
2 nation's history was a hostile policy of the United States  
3 government against Native American Indian tribes, and  
4 a product of these historic wrongs is that Indian tribal  
5 lands in California are primarily small, located in remote  
6 areas of the state, and lack the most basic resources that  
7 would foster employment and opportunity, and as a  
8 result, California Indian tribes were forced into an  
9 existence of poverty and despair symbolized by high  
10 unemployment, illiteracy, and substandard health care;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 1988 there was new hope for California  
13 Indian tribes when Congress passed, and the President of  
14 the United States signed into law, the federal Indian

1 Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 2701 et seq.) that  
2 has as a principal goal the promotion of tribal economic  
3 development, tribal self-sufficiency, and strong tribal  
4 government; and

5 WHEREAS, Revenues from gaming are replacing  
6 welfare with employment, illiteracy with education,  
7 substance abuse with treatment, poverty with prosperity,  
8 and despair with hope, and have created over 15,000 jobs  
9 in gaming enterprises and over 25,000 jobs in related  
10 industries providing services to gaming operations; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal Indian Gaming Regulatory  
12 Act provides a statutory basis for the conduct and  
13 oversight of gaming on Indian lands, and that statute  
14 requires tribal-state compacts for conducting certain  
15 forms of gaming; and

16 WHEREAS, The impact of Indian gaming on state  
17 public policy is presently the subject of federal and state  
18 scholarly research studies; and

19 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States recently  
20 enacted the federal National Gambling Impact Study  
21 Commission Act (P.L. 104-169) and appointed a  
22 commission, among other things, to study tribal  
23 government gaming, which commission will submit a  
24 report to the President, Congress, state governors, and  
25 Native American tribal governments no later than two  
26 years after its first meeting now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*  
28 *California, jointly,* That as sovereign governments  
29 California Indian tribes have a fundamental right to  
30 conduct gaming operations on their sovereign  
31 reservation lands and to foster future economic  
32 development, and gaming that results in revenues used  
33 to improve housing, education, and health care for  
34 California Indian tribes has the full support of the  
35 Legislature of the State of California; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the President of the United States is  
37 requested to issue an executive order permitting the  
38 tribes to continue to operate and regulate their  
39 respective gaming operations until the time that the  
40 studies are concluded, appropriate legislation is enacted,



1 and all other compact remedies have been exhausted;  
2 and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit  
4 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice  
5 President of the United States, the speaker of the House  
6 of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative  
7 from California in the Congress of the United States, and  
8 to the Secretary of the Interior.

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