

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 98

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25—Relative to the Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act and the Jobs 2000 Act of 1997.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 4, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 25, Solis. Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act and Jobs 2000 Act of 1997.

This measure would affirm the Legislature's endorsement of the federal Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act of 1997, including the Jobs 2000 Act of 1997, and would urge the United States Congress to pass the act at once, to meet the urgent demands of the welfare, job, and infrastructure crisis across the nation.

WHEREAS, On March 5, 1997, Congressman Matthew Martinez of California introduced House Resolution 950, the "Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act of 1997," which includes the "Jobs 2000 Act of 1997," to provide \$50 billion per year for emergency public works jobs over a five-year period; and

WHEREAS, The funds will include emergency financial grants to local governments for the construction, repair, and renovation of public works projects including schools, housing, hospitals, parks, bridges, highways, environmental improvement, and other similar projects; and

WHEREAS, The act contains strong labor provisions, including Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, which ensure living wage jobs, equal opportunity employment, provisions for job safety and a healthful work environment, and union apprenticeship for young workers, with project labor agreements with building trades unions; and

WHEREAS, The destruction of the welfare safety net has created an urgent survival need for a vast number of jobs at a living wage in numerous states across the country, including California, where close to half a million families are in danger of losing welfare benefits with an insufficient number of good paying jobs to meet the demand; and

WHEREAS, The new federal welfare legislation has resulted in workfare, and other low-wage, dead-end job solutions that are being used to replace union workers in the private and public sectors with less skilled workers who are particularly threatened by the loss of protections that were contained in the former welfare law; and

WHEREAS, This situation will decrease the wages and worsen the working conditions of all workers, when what should be created are



jobs that pay workers enough to raise a family and lift them out of poverty, as is provided for in the Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act and the Jobs 2000 Act of 1997, which will provide public works jobs at a living wage, on an emergency basis to hundreds of thousands of workers, with priority being given to welfare recipients, the long-term unemployed, victims of plant and base closures, youths, and unemployed building trades workers; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of Los Angeles are in significant need of substantial funds for infrastructure repair and restoration, along with jobs, which the Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act and the Jobs 2000 Act of 1997 would greatly alleviate, with public works and community improvement projects prioritized for communities that suffer the highest levels of unemployment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature affirms its endorsement of the federal Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act and the Jobs 2000 Act of 1997, and urges the United States Congress to pass the act at once, to meet the urgent demands of the welfare, job, and infrastructure crises across the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

