

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 71

**Introduced by Assembly Members Steinberg and
Villaraigosa**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Ackerman,
Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Baldwin, Bates, Battin, Baugh,
Bock, Brewer, Briggs, Calderon, Cardenas, Cardoza,
Cedillo, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Cunneen, Davis, Dickerson,
Ducheny, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frusetta, Gallegos,
Granlund, Havice, Hertzberg, Honda, House, Jackson,
Kaloogian, Keeley, Kuehl, Leach, Lempert, Leonard,
Longville, Lowenthal, Machado, Maddox, Maldonado,
Margett, Mazzoni, McClintock, Migden, Nakano, Olberg,
Oller, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pescetti,
Reyes, Romero, Runner, Scott, Shelley, Soto, Strickland,
Strom-Martin, Thompson, Thomson, Torlakson, Vincent,
Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wiggins, Wildman, Wright,
and Zettel)**

(Coauthor: Senator Ortiz)

June 21, 1999

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to
synagogue fires in Sacramento.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, as introduced, Steinberg. Synagogue fires in
Sacramento.

This measure would declare that the Legislature sends
support and heartfelt condolences to Congregation B'nai
Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, Keneset Israel Torah

Center, and the entire Sacramento community in connection with recent arson crimes committed at those synagogues. The measure also denounces these criminal acts and resolves to combat hatred, promote unity, assist in bringing those responsible to justice, and help the community rebuild the damaged synagogues.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Jewish community have
2 played a strong and vital role in the affairs of the
3 Sacramento region for more than 150 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Three Sacramento area synagogues,
5 Congregation B'nai Israel, the oldest synagogue in the
6 western United States, Congregation Beth Shalom, and
7 Keneset Israel Torah Center, were attacked by arsonists
8 on the eve of the Sabbath, June 18, 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, All three fires occurred in the early
10 morning hours, in the dark of night, within a one-hour
11 time period; and

12 WHEREAS, Damage at the three synagogues was
13 extensive and included the library with many historic
14 books and videos at Congregation B'nai Israel and
15 virtually the complete destruction of the Keneset Israel
16 Torah Center; and

17 WHEREAS, These three fires were the result of
18 despicable hatred and cowardice that comprise one of the
19 worst acts of anti-Semitism in American history; and

20 WHEREAS, An act against one house of worship is an
21 act of violence against all houses of worship; and

22 WHEREAS, An act against one part of our community
23 is an act of violence against the entire community; and

24 WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon each of us to do
25 everything possible to combat hatred and intolerance
26 whenever and wherever it occurs; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
28 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the
29 State of California sends support and heartfelt
30 condolences to Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation
31 Beth Shalom, Keneset Israel Torah Center, and the
32 entire Sacramento community; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature denounces these
2 cowardly criminal acts and resolves to do everything
3 possible as representatives of California to combat hatred,
4 promote unity, assist in bringing those responsible for
5 these heinous crimes to justice, and help the community
6 rebuild the damaged synagogues.

O

