

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 11, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 121

Introduced by Assembly Members Villaraigosa and Baugh
(Principal coauthors: Senators Burton and Johnson)

February 7, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of California’s Admission into the Union.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 121, as amended, Villaraigosa. Sesquicentennial Anniversary of California’s Admission into the Union.

This measure would officially honor the sesquicentennial anniversary of California’s statehood, and would encourage the people of the state to celebrate with events paying tribute to California’s history.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, September 9, 2000, marks the 150th
2 anniversary of California’s statehood; and
3 WHEREAS, California’s history began long before its
4 admission into the Union; and
5 WHEREAS, A mythical, exotic island named
6 “California” first appeared in the 16th century Spanish
7 novel, *Las Sergas de Esplandian*; and

1 WHEREAS, Explorers sought out this beautiful
2 “island” close to the “Terrestrial Paradise” near the
3 Indies; and

4 WHEREAS, On September 28, 1542, Juan Rodriguez
5 Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator sailing under the
6 Spanish flag, entered what is now San Diego Bay, and was
7 followed in later years by numerous other explorers,
8 including Sir Francis Drake, Sebastian Rodriguez
9 Cermeno, and Sebastian Vizcaino, exploring what is now
10 the coastline of California; and

11 WHEREAS, ~~the~~—*The* rich resources, fair climate, and
12 natural beauty of the region lured subsequent exploration
13 and colonization attempts; and

14 WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the area had been
15 the exclusive domain of numerous indigenous tribes with
16 rich cultures and belief systems, and unique languages
17 and customs; and

18 WHEREAS, After years of colonization, most of these
19 tribes were decimated by disease or subjugation; and

20 WHEREAS, Spain colonized California in the 1760’s
21 and under the leadership of Gaspar de Portola and Father
22 Junipero Serra established presidios, missions, and
23 pueblos; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1822 Mexico gained independence from
25 Spain, making California a Mexican province; and

26 WHEREAS, The province’s remoteness from Mexico
27 helped foster political, civil, and military instability in
28 California; and

29 WHEREAS, On May 13, 1846, the United States went
30 to war with Mexico over border disputes; and

31 WHEREAS, At Sonoma in June of 1846, a group of
32 American settlers, led by William B. Ide, staged the “Bear
33 Flag Rebellion,” declaring California to be a republic
34 independent of Mexico; and

35 WHEREAS, In July 1846, the American flag was raised
36 at Monterey by Commodore John D. Sloat, and at San
37 Francisco by Commander John B. Montgomery; in
38 Sonoma, Lieutenant Joseph Warren Revere ended the
39 brief Bear Flag Rebellion by unfurling Old Glory in its
40 stead; and



1 WHEREAS, The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was
2 signed on February 2, 1848, formally ceding California to
3 the United States of America; and

4 WHEREAS, James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's
5 Mill in Coloma on January 24, 1848, prompting the famous
6 California Gold Rush, which hastened the migration of
7 thousands of people from all over the world; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1849, while Californians were waiting
9 for Congress to vote on an Act for Admission, citizens
10 wasted no time in forming their own government; and

11 WHEREAS, On June 3, 1849, General Bennett Riley,
12 acting as Governor, called for a Constitutional
13 Convention to be held on September 1, 1849, to form a
14 government; and

15 WHEREAS, Most of the delegates were United States
16 citizens and native-born Californians, but there were also
17 five foreign-born members from Switzerland, Scotland,
18 France, Spain, and Ireland; and

19 WHEREAS, Forty-eight delegates met at the
20 Constitutional Convention at Colton Hall in Monterey,
21 and finished their work on October 13, 1849; and

22 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the State of California
23 was adopted by the people on November 13, 1849, by a
24 vote of 12,872 to 811; and

25 WHEREAS, The Constitution, among other things, set
26 forth the Bill of Rights, prohibited slavery, provided for
27 a public school system, limited state indebtedness, gave
28 married women the right to own property, required
29 publishing of laws in English and Spanish, and designated
30 Pueblo de San Jose as the state capital; and

31 WHEREAS, The Legislature convened at San Jose on
32 December 15, 1849, and proceeded to divide the state into
33 25 counties and provide for taxation, courts, city
34 incorporation, and criminal and civil procedures; and

35 WHEREAS, Nearly 10 months after the state
36 Constitution was adopted, President Millard Fillmore
37 signed the Act for Admission admitting California into
38 the Union, on September 9, 1850; and

39 WHEREAS, In the early years of statehood, several
40 cities maneuvered successfully, if only temporarily, to



1 relocate the state capital to their locales, including
2 Vallejo, Benicia, and San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, Sacramento was chosen to be the
4 permanent capital on February 25, 1854; and

5 WHEREAS, A magnificent Capitol building, designed
6 by M.F. Butler and Reuben Clark, has housed the
7 Legislature since 1869, and later the building was
8 methodically restored from 1976 to 1981; and

9 WHEREAS, Previous Legislatures exhibited great
10 foresight and courage throughout California's 150 years as
11 a state, establishing public schools, colleges and
12 universities, granting property rights to women,
13 instituting the direct primary system, giving voters the
14 power to recall government officials, building the state
15 highway system, giving women the right to vote prior to
16 passage of the 19th Amendment, imposing limits on child
17 labor, establishing a state parks system, allowing state
18 assistance to the disabled, mandating construction
19 standards for schools, authorizing the State Water
20 Project, establishing a state civil service system, ending
21 school segregation before passage of similar federal laws,
22 and passing open meeting laws, fair housing laws,
23 environmental protections, and many other laws; and

24 WHEREAS, California has become the world leader in
25 many areas, including, among others, computer
26 technology, agriculture, movie production, aerospace,
27 and medicine; and

28 WHEREAS, California's reputation as the Golden State
29 attracts tourists and immigrants from all over the globe,
30 establishing California as the most ethnically diverse and
31 the most populous state in the Union; and

32 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the important
33 contributions made by California citizens of all ethnic
34 backgrounds; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
36 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature officially
37 honors the sesquicentennial anniversary of California's
38 statehood, and encourages the people of the state to
39 celebrate with events paying tribute to California's
40 history; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the California State
3 Library and the Governor of California.

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