

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 1999  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 1999  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 1999  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 1999  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 268**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Cedillo and Nakano**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Calderon, Hertzberg,~~**  
**~~Honda, Kuehl, and Wayne~~) Aroner, Calderon, Florez,**  
**Hertzberg, Honda, Knox, Kuehl, Longville, Mazzoni,**  
**Robert Pacheco, Pescetti, Shelley, Strom-Martin, Wayne,**  
**Wesson, Wright, and Zettel)**  
*(Coauthors: Senators Baca, Burton, Costa, Polanco, and*  
*Solis)*

February 3, 1999

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An act relating to parks and recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 268, as amended, Cedillo. Museum of Chinese American History: Italian Hall: funding.

The Budget Act of 1998 appropriates funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation for local assistance grants.

This bill would make state funding for the permanent site for the Museum of Chinese American History and for the

restoration of the Italian Hall, both in Los Angeles, contingent upon funding in the Budget Act of 1999.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and  
2 declares the following:

3 (a) The history of our nation and California is a rich  
4 and enduring tapestry woven with the threads of many  
5 remarkable lives, cultures, and events.

6 (b) The lives, work, and artistry of Chinese Americans  
7 have added strength, vitality, and purpose to that  
8 tapestry.

9 (c) Chinese Americans constitute one of the fastest  
10 growing populations in the nation, with the majority of  
11 Chinese Americans making their home in this state with  
12 large numbers in southern California.

13 (d) In order to educate the general public while  
14 preserving American history and culture from the unique  
15 perspective of the generations of Chinese Americans who  
16 have contributed to our national fabric, the Museum of  
17 Chinese American History was established.

18 (e) The Museum of Chinese American History was  
19 formed as a nonprofit organization in 1989 and the  
20 museum will officially open to the public at its permanent  
21 site in the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument  
22 in Los Angeles in the year 2000, the Sesquicentennial of  
23 California's statehood.

24 (f) The Museum of Chinese American History has  
25 already firmly established itself as a significant cultural  
26 educational resource for Chinese Americans and the  
27 multicultural communities in this state and the nation,  
28 hosting numerous exhibitions and events and conducting  
29 research projects.

30 (g) Through the work of the museum, precious  
31 Chinese American traditions and folklore, moving oral  
32 histories, records of painful obstacles overcome, and hard  
33 fought successes are being preserved and safeguarded for



1 all Americans and visitors to our country to study, admire,  
2 and treasure as they explore the pieces of our national  
3 character.

4 (h) The Museum of Chinese American History also  
5 serves as an educational and resource center for the  
6 exchange of ideas and experiences related to life in  
7 multiethnic and multicultural America and as a vital force  
8 in bridging communities and generations of different  
9 cultural backgrounds.

10 The Museum of Chinese American History and Friends  
11 of the Museum of Chinese American History are working  
12 in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and the  
13 private sector to secure funding in order to develop and  
14 maintain a permanent facility for the museum center.

15 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
16 Museum of Chinese American History shall not become  
17 a financial burden to the State of California, and  
18 therefore, that any maintenance or repair costs incurred  
19 by the museum shall be the responsibility of the Friends  
20 of the Museum of Chinese American History.

21 SEC. 3. ~~(a)~~ State funding for the rehabilitation,  
22 development, and operations for the permanent site of  
23 the Museum of Chinese American History in Los Angeles  
24 is contingent upon funding provided in the Budget Act  
25 of 1999.

26 ~~(b)~~

27 SEC. 4. *The Legislature hereby finds and declares all*  
28 *of the following:*

29 (a) *Italian Americans have played an important role in*  
30 *the social and economic development of California.*

31 (b) *The history of Italian Americans in Los Angeles*  
32 *can be traced back to 1823.*

33 (c) *The historic Italian Hall was built in 1907 and has*  
34 *served as the center of the Italian community for over a*  
35 *century.*

36 (d) *The Italian Hall has been vital in educating the*  
37 *public about Italian American history and preserving*  
38 *Italian culture.*

39 (e) *Through social gatherings and community events*  
40 *the Italian Hall has successfully educated the public about*



1 *the contributions of Italians and preserved Italian culture*  
2 *and history for the public and generations to come.*

3 *(f) The Italian Hall is working in partnership with the*  
4 *City of Los Angeles and the private sector to secure*  
5 *funding for the restoration of the historic hall.*

6 SEC. 5. Funding for a grant for the restoration of the  
7 Italian Hall in Los Angeles is ~~also~~ contingent upon  
8 funding provided in the Budget Act of 1999.

