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

February 10, 2000

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the First Session of the California Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 64, as introduced, Burton. Commemoration of the First Legislature.

This measure would memorialize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the First Session of the California Legislature.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Upon the ratification of the Treaty of
2 Guadalupe-Hidalgo on May 30, 1848, Alta California
3 passed from the jurisdiction of the Mexican Republic to
4 the jurisdiction of the United States of America,
5 culminating hostilities begun in 1846; and
6 WHEREAS, Following the Treaty, the Congress of the
7 United States in its sessions of 1848 and 1849 failed to
8 provide for a civil government in the region, leaving a
9 military government previously established under the
10 laws of war that would operate with the presumed
11 consent of the People; and
12 WHEREAS, Throughout the military administrations
13 of Stephen Kearney, Richard Mason, and Bennet Riley,
14 the population increased exponentially following the

1 discovery of gold, creating a constituency avid for the
2 establishment of popular government based on the
3 familiar law of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, In response to popular meetings in San
5 Jose, San Francisco, Sonoma, Monterey, Coloma, San
6 Diego, and at the Yuba River advocating representative
7 government, and to the establishment of local legislative
8 bodies in Sonoma, Sacramento, and San Francisco,
9 Brigadier General Bennet Riley issued a proclamation on
10 June 3, 1849, calling for elections to a Constitutional
11 Convention to convene in Monterey on September 1; and

12 WHEREAS, The Constitutional Convention produced
13 the first fundamental document of California in the
14 American era, proclaimed by General Riley on October
15 12, 1849, who then called for the election of the first
16 Legislature on November 13, 1849; and

17 WHEREAS, Following the election, the first
18 Legislature met in San Jose at a two-story adobe known
19 as the Sainsevain Hotel on December 15, and achieved a
20 quorum on December 17; and

21 WHEREAS, From the date of the Constitutional
22 Convention, nine months prior to the admission of
23 California to the Union, through the date of final
24 adjournment on April 22, 1850, the First Legislature
25 compiled a record of remarkable achievement under the
26 most adverse of circumstances, adopting California's
27 fundamental civil and criminal statutes, establishing the
28 boundaries for counties, creating the first administrative
29 offices of state government including the State Archives,
30 State Librarian, and the Office of State Printer, declaring
31 all roads public highways, establishing a revenue stream
32 based on property and per capita taxes, and providing the
33 procedure for the establishment of colleges and
34 universities; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
36 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature
37 celebrates the institution of popularly elected
38 representative government in California upon the one
39 hundred fiftieth anniversary of its First Session, with
40 renewed dedication to the protection of rights and



1 perfection of justice for all the citizens of this state; and
2 be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby commemorates
4 and respectfully honors those individuals who answered
5 the first call to legislative service on behalf of the People
6 of the State of California: Senators William R. Bassham,
7 Nathaniel Bennett, John Bidwell, David C. Broderick,
8 Ephraim Kirby Chamberlin, Elisha O. Crosby, Pablo de
9 la Guerra, David F. Douglass, William D. Fair, Thomas
10 Jefferson Green, Elcan Heydenfeldt, Alexander W. Hope,
11 Benjamin S. Lippincott, Gabriel B. Post, Henry Robinson,
12 Nelson Taylor, Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Thomas L.
13 Vermeule, Selim E. Woodworth; Assembly Members
14 Joseph Aram, Drury P. Baldwin, Ebenezer B. Bateman,
15 John Bigler, John Ely Brackett, John S. Bradford, Elam
16 Brown, Herman C. Cardwell, John Cave, Samuel J.
17 Clarke, Pierre Barlow Cornwall, Benjamin Cory, Jose
18 Maria Covarrubias, Charles Mack Creaner, Alexander
19 Parker Crittenden, William Grove Deal, James A. Gray,
20 Richard W. Heath, Thomas Jefferson Henley, John T.
21 Hughes, Montgomery Martin, Elisha McKinstry,
22 Benjamin Franklin Moore, Joseph C. Morehead, Isaac
23 S.K. Ogier, John Alexander Patterson, Theron R. Per Lee,
24 Edmund Randolph, Levi Stowell, Henry A. Tefft, George
25 B. Tingley, John Wesley Van Benschoten, William Van
26 Voorhies, Madison Walthall, John Watson, Alfred
27 Wheeler, Thomas Jefferson White, John Williams, and
28 Oliver S. Witherby; and James F. Howe, first Secretary of
29 the Senate, Thomas J. Austin, first Sergeant-at-Arms of
30 the Senate, E.H. Tharp, first Chief Clerk of the Assembly,
31 and Samuel N. Houston, first Sergeant-at-Arms of the
32 Assembly.

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