

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 14, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 170

Introduced by Assembly Members Nielsen and Caballero

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Tom Berryhill, Chesbro, Conway, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Gilmore, Hill, Huffman, Ma, Monning, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Cox and Strickland)

May 28, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 170—Relative to the Williamson Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 170, as amended, Nielsen. Williamson Act.

This measure would recognize the 45th Anniversary of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, and would recognize the value to the state of agricultural land conservation contracts.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2117 by Assembly Member John
- 2 Williamson was signed into law on July 16, 1965, by Governor
- 3 Edmund G. "Pat" Brown; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2117 created the California Land
- 5 Conservation Act of 1965 that has become known nationwide as
- 6 the Williamson Act; and

1 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act has been California's most
2 effective farm and ranch land preservation program, protecting
3 over 16.5 million acres or nearly one-third of all privately owned
4 land in California; and

5 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act promotes food security by
6 protecting the agricultural land base, encourages agricultural
7 support industries and jobs, complements other efforts to curb
8 sprawl while avoiding costly public facilities and support services
9 to scattered residential subdivisions, and promotes environmental
10 quality and resource values; and

11 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act achieves these broad public
12 policy goals with a cost-effective, incentive-based program that
13 serves to protect the overall economy of the agricultural community
14 that exceeds \$100 billion and nearly half a million jobs generated
15 from the \$36.2 billion in farmgate value for the more than 400
16 California commodities produced; and

17 WHEREAS, The abundance from our state's 81,500 farms and
18 ranches ~~produces~~ *represents* nearly half of United States grown
19 fruits, nuts, and vegetables, *and* would be significantly less without
20 the land use protections of the Williamson Act; and

21 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act has served to facilitate the
22 intergenerational transfer of agricultural enterprises to young
23 farmers and ranchers; and

24 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act benefits the environment and
25 quality of life in other important ways by preserving open-space
26 and wildlife habitat and protecting watersheds; now, therefore, be
27 it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
30 recognizes and celebrates the 45th Anniversary of the California
31 Land Conservation Act of 1965; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the State of California acknowledges and
33 appreciates the partnership with cities and counties as well as the
34 participating landowners who have made the Williamson Act the
35 most effective farm and ranch land and open-space protection tool
36 in the history of California; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
38 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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