

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 22, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 120

Introduced by Assembly Member Nielsen

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Wagner, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthor: Senator La Malfa)

March 1, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 120—Relative to California Cattlemen’s Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 120, as amended, Nielsen. California Cattlemen’s Day.

This measure would declare March 21, 2012, as California Cattlemen’s Day and would urge all residents of this state to acknowledge and pay respect to the men and women, all over the State of California, who work on the land to enhance and protect it, and who dedicate their lives to producing healthy food for millions throughout the world.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California has a long tradition of ranching dating
2 back to the establishment of the first Spanish mission in San Diego
3 in the early 1700s. By 1834, California's mission operated a herd
4 of beef cattle estimated at 400,000 head. Under Mexican rule, large
5 "ranchos" were established, and cattle hides and tallow fueled the
6 state's economy. The Gold Rush brought hundreds of thousands
7 of new citizens to the state, as well as a new demand for beef, and
8 many of today's ranches were established prior to or shortly
9 following the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, California's cattlemen and cattlemen
11 represent an industry as diverse as any in the world and the
12 traditions of land stewardship have been passed down through
13 generations. California's cattlemen and cattlemen own or
14 manage approximately 38 million of California's 100 million acres
15 of privately and publicly owned rangelands. California's working
16 rangelands provide public benefits such as open space, ground
17 water recharge, carbon sequestration, fuel load reductions and
18 habitat for wildlife. With more than 90 percent of California rainfall
19 flowing through rangeland on its way to other uses, the health and
20 maintenance of these rangelands is imperative; and

21 WHEREAS, California is home to nearly 12,000 family farms
22 and ranches raising livestock, many of which have been passed
23 down for multiple generations; and

24 WHEREAS, California remains the nation's largest agricultural
25 producing state and agriculture is California's top grossing
26 industry. Beef and cattle production plays no small part in
27 contributing to California's robust agricultural industry and
28 contributes \$1.75 billion to the California economy; and

29 WHEREAS, The long-term success of all segments of the beef
30 industry, from pasture to plate, require the careful stewardship of
31 our state's natural resources and the ongoing commitment to
32 ensuring top quality health and welfare for the animals in their
33 care. So well managed is this land, that numerous studies have
34 found grazing to benefit habitat for multiple endangered and
35 threatened species; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares March 21, 2012,
38 as California Cattlemen's Day, and all residents of this state are
39 urged to acknowledge and pay respect to the men and women, all
40 over the State of California, who work on the land to enhance and

- 1 protect it, and who dedicate their lives to producing healthy food
- 2 for millions throughout the world; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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