

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 160

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Davis, Hall, Mitchell,
and Swanson)
(Coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

June 12, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to Kwanzaa.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 160, as introduced, Carter. Kwanzaa.

This measure would recognize the 45th anniversary of Kwanzaa and proclaim December 26 through January 1 each year as Kwanzaa Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African
2 holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture and is
3 observed each year by millions throughout the world African
4 community on every continent in the world; and
5 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana
6 Karenga, an internationally recognized scholar and author,
7 professor and chair of Africana Studies at California State
8 University, Long Beach, and founder and executive director of the
9 African American Cultural Center, in order to reaffirm African
10 Americans' rootedness in African culture, to provide a context in
11 which Africans around the world could come together and reinforce
12 the bonds between them and to introduce the Nguzo Saba, and
13 reaffirm the importance of African communitarian values which
14 stress and strengthen family, community, and culture; and

1 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious
2 holiday, and is thus open to and practiced by Africans of all
3 religious faiths from December 26 to January 1 each year; and

4 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a profound expression of African
5 people's commitment to their cultural values and heritage, an
6 annual reaffirmation and reinforcement of the bonds between them
7 as a people and a celebration of themselves and their history; and

8 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration, with its emphasis on
9 history, values, family, community, and culture, speaks to African
10 people throughout the world in a special way; and

11 WHEREAS, The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase
12 "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a
13 Pan-African language that is the most widely spoken African
14 language; and

15 WHEREAS, First-fruits celebrations are recorded in African
16 history as early as ancient Egypt and Nubia; and

17 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa was created in order to introduce and
18 cultivate an appreciation for the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles,
19 which are:

20 (a) Umoja (unity): to strive for and maintain unity in the family,
21 community, nation, and race.

22 (b) Kujichagulia (self-determination): to define ourselves, name
23 ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves.

24 (c) Ujima (collective work and responsibility): to build and
25 maintain our community together and make our brother's and
26 sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

27 (d) Ujamaa (cooperative economics): to build and maintain our
28 own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them
29 together.

30 (e) Nia (purpose): to make our collective vocation the building
31 and developing of our community in order to restore our people
32 to their traditional greatness.

33 (f) Kuumba (creativity): to do always as much as we can, in the
34 way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and
35 beneficial than we inherited it.

36 (g) Imani (faith): to believe with all our heart in our people, our
37 parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory
38 of our struggle; and

39 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration is:

1 (a) A time of ingathering for people to reaffirm the bonds
2 between them.

3 (b) A time of special reverence for the creator and creation in
4 thanks for the blessings, bountifulness, and beauty of creation.

5 (c) A time for commemorating the past in pursuit of its lessons
6 and in honor of our ancestors.

7 (d) A time for recommitment to our highest cultural ideals and
8 our effort to bring forth the best in African cultural thought and
9 practice.

10 (e) A time for celebrating the good, including the goodness of
11 life, existence, family, community, and culture, as well as the good
12 of the awesome and the ordinary, in a word the good of the divine,
13 natural, and social; and

14 WHEREAS, It is important to commemorate Kwanzaa as a
15 celebration that strengthens the sense of rootedness in the best of
16 African culture, thereby strengthening the bonds of community
17 and allowing for a reaffirmation of a common identity; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commemorates the 45th
21 anniversary of the celebration of Kwanzaa; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature proclaims and designates
23 December 26 through January 1 each year as “Kwanzaa Week”
24 in recognition and respect of the cultural significance of this
25 holiday to African people throughout the world; and be it further

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

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