

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 6, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 160

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Davis, Hall, Mitchell, ~~and Swanson~~ Swanson, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Campos, Cedillo, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Miller, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

June 12, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to Kwanzaa.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 160, as amended, 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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase
22 "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a
23 Pan-African language that is the most widely spoken African
24 language; and

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

27 WHEREAS, Kwanzaa was created in order to introduce and
28 cultivate an appreciation for the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles,
29 which are:

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

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

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

37 (d) Ujamaa (cooperative economics): to build and maintain our
38 own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them
39 together.

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The Kwanzaa celebration is:

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

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

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

17 (d) A time for recommitment to our highest cultural ideals and
18 our effort to bring forth the best in African cultural thought and
19 practice.

20 (e) A time for celebrating the good, including the goodness of
21 life, existence, family, community, and culture, as well as the good
22 of the awesome and the ordinary, in a word the good of the divine,
23 natural, and social; and

24 WHEREAS, It is important to commemorate Kwanzaa as a
25 celebration that strengthens the sense of rootedness in the best of
26 African culture, thereby strengthening the bonds of community
27 and allowing for a reaffirmation of a common identity; now,
28 therefore, be it

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

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

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

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