
Introduced by Senator Yee

February 14, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Sunshine Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as introduced, Yee. Sunshine Week.

This resolution would designate March 19, 2011, to March 23, 2011, as Sunshine Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week began in Florida in 2002, when
2 the Florida Society of Newspapers launched Sunshine Sunday in
3 response to efforts by some of that state's legislators to create
4 scores of exemptions to the state's public records law; and
5 WHEREAS, Several states followed Florida's lead and, in June
6 2003, the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) hosted a
7 Freedom of Information Summit in Washington, D.C.; and
8 WHEREAS, With an inaugural grant from the Knight
9 Foundation, ASNE launched Sunshine Week in March 2005, and
10 it continues to be celebrated each year in mid-March to coincide
11 with National Freedom of Information Day and President James
12 Madison's birthday on March 16; and
13 WHEREAS, Although originally created by journalists, Sunshine
14 Week is about the public's right to know what its government is
15 doing and why; and
16 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is now a national initiative to
17 promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and
18 freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic

1 groups, libraries, nonprofit entities, schools, and others interested
2 in the public's right to know; and

3 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower
4 people to play an active role in all levels of government, and to
5 give people access to information that makes their lives better and
6 their communities stronger; and

7 WHEREAS, The coverage, commentaries, and activities
8 promoting open government during Sunshine Week have led to
9 tangible, meaningful changes to people's lives, and the laws that
10 govern them; and

11 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is increasing public awareness and
12 people are playing more of a role in the actions that affect their
13 communities. People are learning what kinds of information they
14 have a right to see, how and where to obtain that information, and
15 what to do if someone tries to prevent them from accessing it; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
19 19, 2011, to March 23, 2011, as Sunshine Week and encourages
20 all Californians to participate in appropriate activities relating to
21 open government and access to public information; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of
23 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.