

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 8

Introduced by Senator Yee
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jeffries)

February 14, 2011

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as amended, Yee. Sunshine Week.

This resolution would designate ~~March 19, 2011, to March 23, 2011~~
March 13 through March 19, 2011, as Sunshine Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

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

1 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week is now a national initiative to
2 promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and
3 freedom of information. Participants include news media, civic
4 groups, libraries, nonprofit entities, schools, and others interested
5 in the public's right to know; and

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

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

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

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
22 ~~19, 2011, to March 23, 2011~~ *13 through March 19, 2011*, as
23 Sunshine Week and encourages all Californians to participate in
24 appropriate activities relating to open government and access to
25 public information; and be it further

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