

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 64

Introduced by Senator Corbett

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Garrick)

(Coauthors: Senators De León, DeSaulnier, Evans, and Pavley)

February 13, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 64, as amended, Corbett. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2012 as Irish American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to the country and state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship
2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United
3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising
4 future for themselves and their families; and
5 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and
6 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years
7 went on, Irish Americans became very involved in the community
8 and made numerous contributions in all aspects of American
9 society and culture, especially in California; and
10 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the
11 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were
12 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 20 22 Presidents

1 of the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.
2 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

3 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to
4 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its
5 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy
6 Burns, activist in the Women's Movement; and Senator George
7 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

8 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in
9 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city
10 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the
11 development of California over the years have been of Irish
12 descent; and

13 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were significantly involved in the
14 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,
15 especially in California. This included work on railroads and
16 bridges that connected the west to the east. The Irish were also
17 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings
18 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

19 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark as
20 peace officers and firefighters, and have risked or lost their lives
21 on countless occasions in carrying out their duties; and

22 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have served with distinction in
23 every war that this nation has fought. Many outstanding soldiers
24 who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary War were
25 of Irish descent. Since then, Irish Americans have sacrificed their
26 lives in every war that the United States has fought; and

27 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to
28 the United States economy in business, including: Henry Ford,
29 founder of the Ford Motor Company; Alexander Stewart, the
30 inventor of the American department store; Cathleen Black,
31 president of Hearst Publishing; Jack Welch, former president and
32 chief executive officer of General Electric; and Herb Kelleher,
33 cofounder of Southwest Airlines; and

34 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the field of
35 science, including astronaut Michael Collins, first female
36 commander of a Space Shuttle Eileen Collins, physicist and Nobel
37 Laureate Charles Townes, and bioengineer and MacArthur Genius
38 recipient James Collins; and

39 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American
40 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery

O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy, Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American entertainment with such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray; actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell; actor and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney; actress and singer Judy Garland; comedian Conan O'Brien; and actor and director Edward Burns, all being of Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and California politics, economy, and culture; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Senate, in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a better country and state for all people, designates March 2012 to be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon the people of the state to observe the month of March with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.