

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 77

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16—Relative to the Fourth of July.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 5, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 16, Robert Pacheco. The Declaration of Independence.

This measure would recognize July 4, 2001, as the 225th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States. It would memorialize the peoples and governments of the United States to continue their efforts to realize the fundamental principles pronounced in that document, and the United States to work to further international respect and observance of the inherent rights of individuals throughout the world.

WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress issued an unanimous pronouncement of the 13 colonies declaring their collective independence from Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, In enunciating the colonists' rationale for seeking their independence, the Declaration of Independence drew on the philosophical underpinnings of the Age of Enlightenment; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence proclaimed "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS, In declaring their independence, the 13 colonies articulated the concept that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed and that those powers not specifically granted to the government are reserved by the people; and

WHEREAS, The United States government and state governments have often failed to adhere to these principles, propagating various policies that deprive individuals and groups of basic civil rights and liberties enjoyed by other Americans; and

WHEREAS, The principles espoused in the Declaration of Independence have led Americans and people the world over to challenge the injustices and inequalities of their respective societies; and

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California recognizes July 4, 2001, as the 225th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States; and be it further



Resolved, That on the 225th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the peoples and governments of the United States continue their efforts to realize the fundamental principles pronounced in that document; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States work to further international respect and observance of the inherent rights of individuals throughout the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

