

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 23

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the First Session of the California Legislature.

[Filed with Secretary of State February 18, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 64, Burton. Commemoration of the First Legislature.

This measure would memorialize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the First Session of the California Legislature.

WHEREAS, Upon the ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo on May 30, 1848, Alta California passed from the jurisdiction of the Mexican Republic to the jurisdiction of the United States of America, culminating hostilities begun in 1846; and

WHEREAS, Following the Treaty, the Congress of the United States in its sessions of 1848 and 1849 failed to provide for a civil government in the region, leaving a military government previously established under the laws of war that would operate with the presumed consent of the People; and

WHEREAS, The population of California increased exponentially following the discovery of gold, creating a constituency avid for the establishment of popular government based on the familiar law of the United States; and

WHEREAS, In response to popular meetings in San Jose, San Francisco, Sonoma, Monterey, Coloma, San Diego, and at the Yuba River advocating representative government, and to the establishment of local legislative bodies in Sonoma, Sacramento, and San Francisco, Brigadier General Bennet Riley issued a proclamation on June 3, 1849, calling for elections to a Constitutional Convention to convene in Monterey on September 1; and

WHEREAS, The Constitutional Convention produced the first fundamental document of California in the American era, proclaimed by General Riley on October 12, 1849, who then called for the election of the first Legislature on November 13, 1849; and

WHEREAS, Following the election, the first Legislature met in San Jose at a two-story adobe known as the Sainsevain Hotel on December 15, and achieved a quorum on December 17; and

WHEREAS, From the date of the Constitutional Convention, nine months prior to the admission of California to the Union, through the date of final adjournment on April 22, 1850, the First Legislature adopted California's first civil and criminal statutes, establishing the

boundaries for counties, creating the first administrative offices of state government including the State Archives, State Librarian, and the Office of State Printer, declaring all roads public highways, establishing a revenue stream based on property and per capita taxes, and providing the procedure for the establishment of colleges and universities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature celebrates the institution of popularly elected representative government in California upon the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of its First Session, with renewed dedication to the protection of rights and perfection of justice for all the citizens of this state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature hereby commemorates and respectfully honors those individuals who answered the first call to legislative service on behalf of the People of the State of California: Senators William R. Bassham, Nathaniel Bennett, John Bidwell, David C. Broderick, Ephraim Kirby Chamberlin, Elisha O. Crosby, Pablo de la Guerra, David F. Douglass, William D. Fair, Thomas Jefferson Green, Elcan Heydenfeldt, Alexander W. Hope, Benjamin S. Lippincott, Gabriel B. Post, Henry Robinson, Nelson Taylor, Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Thomas L. Vermeule, Selim E. Woodworth; Assembly Members Joseph Aram, Drury P. Baldwin, Ebenezer B. Bateman, John Bigler, John Ely Brackett, John S. Bradford, Elam Brown, Herman C. Cardwell, John Cave, Samuel J. Clarke, Pierre Barlow Cornwall, Benjamin Cory, Jose Maria Covarrubias, Charles Mack Creaner, Alexander Parker Crittenden, William Grove Deal, James A. Gray, Richard W. Heath, Thomas Jefferson Henley, John T. Hughes, Montgomery Martin, Elisha McKinstry, Benjamin Franklin Moore, Joseph C. Morehead, Isaac S.K. Ogier, John Alexander Patterson, Theron R. Per Lee, Edmund Randolph, Levi Stowell, Henry A. Tefft, George B. Tingley, John Wesley Van Benschoten, William Van Voorhies, Madison Walthall, John Watson, Alfred Wheeler, Thomas Jefferson White, John Williams, and Oliver S. Witherby; and James F. Howe, first Secretary of the Senate, Thomas J. Austin, first Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, E.H. Tharp, first Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and Samuel N. Houston, first Sergeant-at-Arms of the Assembly.

