
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 18
Author: Kamlager (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/1/21
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Read and adopted, 2/16/21

SUBJECT: Black History Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes February 2021 as Black History Month, urges all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people of California to recognize the many talents of African Americans and the achievements and contributions they make to their communities to create equity and equality for education, economics, and social justice. This resolution also recognizes the significance in protecting citizens' right to vote and remedying racial discrimination in voting.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The history of the United States is rich with inspirational stories of great individuals whose actions, words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States. Among those Americans who have enriched our society are the members of the African American community, individuals whose accomplishments have contributed to every endeavor throughout the history of our nation and who have been steadfast in their commitment to promoting brotherhood, equality, and justice for all.
- 2) Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, the distinguished African American author, editor, publisher, and historian who is known as the "Father of Black History," founded Negro History Week in 1926, which became Black History Month in 1976, with the intent to encourage further research and publications regarding the untold stories of African American heritage.

- 3) From the earliest days of the United States, the course of its history has been greatly influenced by African American heroes and pioneers in many diverse areas, including science, medicine, business, education, government, industry, and social leadership.
- 4) In 1976, the United States government officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”.
- 5) August 2019 marked 400 years since the first arrival of Africans to present-day America, and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African American History Commission to commemorate the historic heritage and contributions that Americans of African descent have made to help shape the cultural, academic, social, economic, and moral attributes of this nation.
- 6) In 2020, the number of Black Americans eligible to vote for president reached a record 300,000,000 Nationwide, Black eligible voters made up 12.5 percent of the United States electorate, up from 11.5 percent in 2000.
- 7) Despite over 50 years of progress, African Americans continue to face racial and social injustices, voter suppression, economic stagnation, and voting barriers in jurisdictions with a history of discrimination.
- 8) To build a stronger and more cohesive state and nation, we must continue to help advance the cause of voter equality and equal access to the political process for all people in order to protect the rights of every American.

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Comments

The author states that this resolution “Recognizes February 2021 as Black History Month, and urges all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during the month. It also encourages the people of California to recognize the many talents of African Americans and the achievements and contributions they make to their communities to create equity and equality for

education, economics, and social justice. This year marks 55 years since the first African American woman was elected to the State Legislature.”

Related/Prior Legislation

The following are the most recent measures recognizing Black History Month:

- SCR 10 (Bradford, 2021) – pending in the Assembly.
- SR 74 (Bradford, 2020) – adopted by the Senate.
- ACR 155 (Weber, Resolution Chapter 20, Statutes of 2020).
- SCR 12 (Bradford, Resolution Chapter 12, Statutes of 2019).
- ACR 19 (Weber, Resolution Chapter 15, Statutes of 2019).

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 2/22/21)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 2/22/21)

None received

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2/24/21 15:58:34

**** **END** ****