

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 14

Introduced by Assembly Member Yee

~~(Coauthor: Assembly Member Baca~~ *Coauthors: Assembly Members Baca, Bass, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, Dymally, Evans, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Jones, Karnette, Klehs, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Liu, Matthews, Montanez, Mullin, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Torrico, Umberg, Vargas, and Wolk)*

March 29, 2005

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to offshore oil drilling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 14, as amended, Yee. Oil and gas: offshore drilling: leases: moratorium.

This measure would request that Congress continue the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for fiscal year 2006 and beyond, and would express opposition to certain provisions of proposed federal energy legislation.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, A bipartisan consensus in Congress has protected
- 2 the California coastline from expanded offshore drilling for the
- 3 past 24 years, renewing this protection each year in the form of a
- 4 legislative moratorium contained in the appropriations bill for the
- 5 Department of the Interior. This offshore leasing moratorium also

1 protects the coastline of Oregon and Washington, the entire
2 United States eastern seaboard, and the southwest coast of
3 Florida; and

4 WHEREAS, President Bush’s current White House budget for
5 fiscal year 2006, released in January 2005, supports a
6 continuation of this congressional offshore leasing moratorium;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, A complementary measure, put in place by
9 executive action in 1991 by former President George H.W. Bush
10 protects the same areas through enactment of the “Presidential
11 Offshore Leasing Deferrals,” which President William Clinton
12 subsequently extended until 2012 to ensure that protected coastal
13 areas would not be threatened by offshore drilling impacts; and

14 WHEREAS, The House Resources Committee, now
15 considering a federal omnibus energy bill that would curtail
16 California’s legitimate role in energy facility siting decisions, has
17 prepared draft legislation, “State Enhanced Authority for Coastal
18 and Offshore Resources Act (SEACOR),” which, if adopted,
19 would immediately void the entire bipartisan congressional
20 offshore leasing moratorium and the longstanding presidential
21 offshore drilling deferrals, while undermining state’s rights by
22 pressuring coastal jurisdictions to facilitate new federal offshore
23 drilling by making a state’s share of the federal revenues from
24 these activities contingent on state approval of new and expanded
25 federal offshore leasing; and

26 WHEREAS, Additional provisions in the draft federal
27 omnibus energy bill would centralize unilateral authority with the
28 Secretary of the Interior over a broad range of offshore oil and
29 gas support facilities, and other major industrial installations,
30 within the entire 200-mile United States exclusive economic
31 zone; and

32 WHEREAS, Following the infamous 1969 oil spill that
33 resulted in the spillage of 3,200,000 gallons of crude oil, fouling
34 Santa Barbara County’s ocean beaches, Californians became
35 even more wary about offshore oil drilling, continuing with the
36 passage of additional oil and gas leasing prohibitions in 1969,
37 1970, and 1971; and

38 WHEREAS, In 1994, the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of
39 1994 (Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 6240) of Part 1 of
40 Division 6 of the Public Resources Code), became law, creating

1 a comprehensive statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits future
2 oil and gas leasing in state waters, from Mexico to the Oregon
3 border, in perpetuity, and adding leases to the sanctuary as they
4 are quitclaimed to the state; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition, the protection of California's
6 spectacular 1,100-mile coastline is of the utmost importance to a
7 number of our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries,
8 including tourism and commercial fishing, which contributed
9 over fifty billion dollars (\$50,000,000,000) to California's
10 economy in 1999; and

11 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters are also home to four
12 important sanctuaries, the Monterey Bay National Marine
13 Sanctuary, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary,
14 the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the Channel
15 Islands National Marine Sanctuary which, by definition, are areas
16 of special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical,
17 cultural, archeological, scientific, education, and esthetic
18 qualities and, as such, are particularly sensitive to the impacts of
19 oil development; and

20 WHEREAS, Additional offshore oil leasing and production
21 would degrade the quality of our air and water, and adversely
22 impact our marine resources, including severe impacts from
23 seismic surveys on marine mammals, that could involve
24 threatened and endangered species as blue and humpback
25 whales; and

26 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development poses a serious risk of
27 oil spills, especially with the introduction of deepwater drilling
28 technologies and floating oil storage and processing vessels,
29 thereby threatening marine ecosystems, and could have
30 devastating effects on the southern sea otter, listed as a
31 threatened species since 1997, as well as onshore wildlife, birds,
32 and their habitats in the ocean, in estuaries, and on beaches; and

33 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development also leads to the
34 industrialization of the shoreline, creating land use conflicts,
35 visually degrading coastal areas, and posing potentially life
36 threatening public safety risks; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
38 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
39 respectfully requests that Congress continue the federal offshore

1 oil and gas leasing moratorium for fiscal year 2006 and beyond;
2 and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
4 respectfully opposes the damaging coastal provisions of the
5 federal energy bill, including, but not limited to, the adoption of
6 SEACOR or any other coastal provisions that weaken
7 California's legitimate role in energy siting decisions due to the
8 threat posed by this legislation to the economic integrity of
9 California's coastal-dependent tourism and fishing economies,
10 and the consolidation of centralized offshore authority with the
11 Secretary of Interior; and be it further

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