

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 150**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins**

**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Maienschein)**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Linder, Lopez, Mathis, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Olsen, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

March 7, 2016

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to prevention of cruelty to animals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, as amended, Atkins. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This measure would commend the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on the celebration of its 150th anniversary and for the myriad contributions it has made to the health and well-being of animals nationwide and would extend best wishes for continued success in the future.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty  
2 to Animals (ASPCA) is celebrating its 150th anniversary on April  
3 10, 2016, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight its many  
4 achievements as North America’s first humane society and  
5 underscore the positive impact it has made throughout the State  
6 of California and across the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The ASPCA was founded by Henry Bergh in 1866  
8 on the belief that protecting animals was an issue that crossed party  
9 lines and class boundaries; and

10 WHEREAS, Motivated to act after witnessing the regular  
11 beating, abuse, and overworking of cart horses, Henry Bergh made  
12 a commanding moral and legal case to protect animals, and in so  
13 doing, persuaded prominent leaders of the time, including members  
14 of the Rockefeller family, to support him in enacting the first  
15 anti-cruelty law in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Henry Bergh personally fought for animal welfare  
17 on New York City streets, as well as in the courtroom, regularly  
18 inspecting slaughter houses, working with police to close down  
19 dog fighting pits, lecturing at schools, and operating the nation’s  
20 first ambulance for overworked horses that frequently collapsed  
21 from dehydration and exhaustion; and

22 WHEREAS, Henry Bergh’s outspoken crusade on behalf of  
23 animals inspired those activists seeking to protect abused children  
24 to establish the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty  
25 to Children, the first child protective agency in the world, for which  
26 he served as a founding vice president; and

27 WHEREAS, By 1888, the year Henry Bergh died, 37 of the  
28 country’s then 38 states had passed animal anti-cruelty laws, and  
29 the ASPCA today continues his legacy by working to enhance  
30 laws to protect animals by advocating nationally for the strongest  
31 possible protections for animals; helping animals in crisis by  
32 responding to requests for assistance by law enforcement and  
33 emergency response agencies around the country; and, since 2008,  
34 providing \$93 million in grants to various partners nationwide,  
35 including over \$12.3 million to organizations throughout California  
36 in support of programs in line with its mission; and

37 WHEREAS, Since its founding, the American Society for the  
38 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has evolved into a dynamic voice  
39 for improving the quality of life for animals throughout the United  
40 States; now, therefore, be it

1     *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
2     *thereof concurring,* That the American Society for the Prevention  
3     of Cruelty to Animals be commended on celebrating its 150th  
4     anniversary and for the myriad contributions it has made to the  
5     health and well-being of animals nationwide and wished the best  
6     for continued success in the future.

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