

Date of Hearing: June 18, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
HR 96 (Boerner Horvath) – As Introduced May 28, 2020

**SUBJECT:** The 4th of July.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes and celebrates July 4, 2020, and the 244th anniversary of the birth of our nation and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) July 4, 2020, marks the 244th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and by the adoption of that document formally titled, “The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America”, the nation we today know as the United States of America officially came into being, an occasion forever memorialized by President Abraham Lincoln in the words of his Gettysburg Address as when “...our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”
- 2) On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee brought forth a resolution, which resolved that the colonies should be “free and independent states...and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved....” After several days of debate, a "Committee of Five", which included Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut, was charged with drafting a declaration of independence for consideration by the Continental Congress.
- 3) On July 4, 1776, after further debate and changes to the committee document, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence establishing the United States of America; and, John Hancock that day affixed his signature, with 55 other delegates representing the 13 colonies – now states of the newly created nation – signing the declaration within the next several weeks.
- 4) Since its adoption and bold pronouncement more than two centuries ago, the Declaration of Independence has inspired literally billions of persons around the world to pursue freedom in their own nation, for themselves and their loved ones. Americans must rededicate themselves just as the drafters and signers of the Declaration of Independence did more than two centuries ago.
- 5) On this and every July 4th, it is both proper and fitting that the institutions of California government, and all Californians express gratitude and indebtedness to those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and in particular, to those who have suffered the injuries of battle and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting freedom and liberty around the world.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Nicole Willis / RLS. / (916) 319-2800