

SENATE THIRD READING
SCR 137 (Ashby)
As Introduced February 25, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Honors the life and legacy of United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and proclaims March 15, 2026, as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Day, a day of remembrance and education to ensure that all Californians always honor and remember a vibrant guardian of equality for all.

Major Provisions

- 1) Women's History Month in the United States is celebrated in March, and commemorates and encourages the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. One of these historical leaders is Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was one of the most notable and influential Justices to have served on the United States Supreme Court.
- 2) The jurisprudence of Justice Ginsburg blended moral purpose with precision and technical mastery of the law. Justice Ginsburg's successful advocacy for gender equality significantly changed the law as it affects women, including the landmark decision of *Reed v. Reed*, 404 U.S. 71 (1971), the first case to hold that discrimination on the basis of sex violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- 3) Justice Ginsburg was a champion for gender justice, abortion rights, voting rights, the rights of immigrants, and the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. Justice Ginsburg steadfastly protected the rights of African Americans, women, immigrants, gays and lesbians, persons accused of crimes, political dissidents, and other groups in our society whose rights and interests are too often disregarded by a hostile or indifferent majority. She was devoted to the preservation of a fair electoral system, whether the issue was campaign finance reform, gerrymandered legislative districts, or expanding and preserving voting rights.
- 4) Her oral dissent in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Inc.*, 550 U.S. 618 (2007) pushed the United States Congress to enact, and President Barack Hussein Obama to sign, equal pay legislation in 2009 by rejecting a pay discrimination case on a technicality. She defended women's reproductive freedom in several cases and supported gay marriage. In other cases, Justice Ginsburg defended affirmative action against a legal onslaught, and poignantly noted in interviews that she and many other women had benefited from the practice.
- 5) Justice Ginsburg died on September 18, 2020, at 87 years of age after a long battle with cancer, and became the first woman and the first Jewish person to lie in state in 168 years and only the second United States Supreme Court Justice to lie in state.
- 6) The nation and our state are deeply indebted to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a truly distinguished American.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

When I was a young single mom in law school, Justice Ginsburg was the only person I knew of who also had to balance being a mom while in law school. She understood that women cannot be equal citizens without autonomy, economic opportunity, and the full protection of the law. After graduating top of her class, she eventually would become the second woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court. She spent a lifetime fighting for equity. Justice Ginsburg was a pioneer for women, and she serves as a role model to so many of us.

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 34-0-6**

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Niello, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caballero, Gonzalez, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Reyes

ASM RULES: 7-0-3

YES: Pacheco, Ahrens, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Sanchez

ABS, ABST OR NV: Lackey, Michelle Rodriguez, Zbur

UPDATED

VERSION: February 25, 2026

CONSULTANT: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

FN: 0002334