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**ACR-137 Latinos: environmental protection and conservation.** (2017-2018)

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**Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 137**

**CHAPTER 3**

Relative to public lands and conservation.

[ Filed with Secretary of State February 07, 2018. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 137, Eduardo Garcia. Latinos: environmental protection and conservation.

This measure would recognize the role of Latinos in protecting and preserving the land, water, and wildlife of the United States and would also support and encourage the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos and all Californians in environmental protection and conservation efforts.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest ethnic group in California, with more than 15,000,000 Latinos making up 39 percent of the population in the state; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest population of Latinos out of all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, Latinos ought to have greater representation that is illustrative of their population in the decisionmaking process relating to, and management of, public land; and

WHEREAS, Latino conservation initiatives break down barriers, improve access to public land, and encourage outreach to, and new opportunities for, the Latino community to enjoy public land; and

WHEREAS, Increased access to outdoor recreation opportunities for Latino families and youth fosters outdoor appreciation as well as a commitment within the Latino community to conservation; and

WHEREAS, Access to green spaces promotes healthy and active lifestyles, which helps address numerous health disparity issues, such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease, facing the Latino community and disadvantaged communities of color generally; and

WHEREAS, The participation and exposure of Latinos in conservation efforts can encourage interest and involvement of Latinos in careers in conservation; and

WHEREAS, Each person should have the opportunity to discover his or her history, culture, and heritage by exploring and experiencing the public lands of California; and

WHEREAS, The people of California must ensure that the state's public lands and natural surroundings are protected, and equally accessible, for all people in future generations; and

WHEREAS, The largest ethnic group in the state will have a significant role in the future success and preservation of California's public land, especially as that group continues to grow; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature does all of the following:

- (1) Recognizes the role of Latinos in protecting and preserving the land, water, and wildlife of the United States.
- (2) Supports and encourages the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos and all Californians in environmental protection and conservation efforts.
- (3) Encourages Latinos in this country to participate in ceremonies, activities, and programs that engage the community in the outdoors and bring awareness to the importance of conservation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.