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ACR-176 Cruising. (2021-2022)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 176

CHAPTER 161

Relative to cruising.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 30, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 176, Luz Rivas. Cruising.

This measure would celebrate the history and culture of cruising and encourage local officials and law enforcement to work with local car clubs to conduct safe cruising events.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, Cruising is the custom of leisurely driving on urban boulevards in dropped and dolled-up vehicles, that includes meetups of lowrider, vintage, and custom vehicle owners; and

WHEREAS, Cruising is all about fun, the love of cars, the love of culture, and the craft of maintaining a vintage vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Cruising can occur as gatherings where cars are parked and owners show off their cars and admire other cars, or as one-off cruises where people gather and drive their cars through the streets; and

WHEREAS, Cruising in some form has been popular in California since the first American teenagers obtained vehicles in the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, Cruising along a specific route became popular after World War II with individuals of Mexican heritage driving lowriders in southern California towns, and cruising rapidly became a popular activity among teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Lowriders are customized cars whose springs have been shortened so that the chassis rides close to the ground and which are often equipped with hydraulic lifts that are controlled by the driver; and

WHEREAS, The West Coast style vintage lowrider car is embedded throughout popular culture and is frequently featured in films, music videos, video games, museums, marketing, and the digital NFT art world; and

WHEREAS, The fountainhead of lowrider culture is Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Van Nuys Boulevard and the San Fernando Valley are popular hubs of lowrider culture and cruising in California; and

WHEREAS, The San Fernando Valley Car and Truck Club Council is a highly respected body of car and truck clubs in the San Fernando Valley; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Lowrider Council is an advocacy organization and recently marked its 40th year in operation; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento car clubs are dedicated to preserving the art, hobby, and culture; and

WHEREAS, The Sacramento Lowrider Commission was instrumental in the repeal of a 34-year-old city ordinance that prohibited cruising; and

WHEREAS, Whittier Boulevard, Van Nuys Boulevard, Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Hollywood Boulevard, Crenshaw Boulevard, Colorado Boulevard, and McHenry Avenue are among the most famous cruising strips in California; and

WHEREAS, Lowrider communities are also thriving in the Cities of Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Mission Street in San Francisco, Broadway Boulevard in Sacramento, Lake Merritt in Oakland, and Story and Kings Road in San Jose are famous cruising strips in northern California; and

WHEREAS, Cruising has resurged in the last 10 years and cruises and lowrider meetups occur every weekend throughout southern California, from Oxnard to Riverside to San Diego to Lancaster; and

WHEREAS, Car club gatherings have been drawing new types of vehicles driven by younger motorists influenced by the "Fast and the Furious" media franchise; and

WHEREAS, While cruising is most popular among Latinos, cruising is becoming increasingly popular among many other groups including Armenians, African Americans, and Persians; and

WHEREAS, Car clubs are often engaged with their communities and collaborate with local law enforcement and elected officials to conduct toy drives, fundraisers, and other philanthropic activities; and

WHEREAS, Car clubs have participated in COVID-19 vaccine drives, raised money for local causes, raised awareness about the census count, engaged in activism, and advocated for the community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature celebrates the history and culture of cruising and encourages local officials and law enforcement to work with local car clubs to conduct safe cruising events; and be it further

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