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HR-28 (2021-2022)

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REVISED MARCH 22, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2021–2022 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION

NO. 28

Introduced by Assembly Member Robert Rivas

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry, Cunningham, Flora, Gray, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Villapudua, ~~and Wood~~ Wood, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Megan Dahle, Daly, Davies, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Grayson, Holden, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Ramos, Rendon, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, and Wicks)

March 15, 2021

Relative to California Agriculture Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

HR 28, as introduced, Robert Rivas.

WHEREAS, March 23, 2021, is designated as California Agriculture Day, a day of celebration to commemorate agriculture's importance in our daily lives, its vital role in keeping Californians nourished, and its role in keeping the state's economy ranked as the fifth largest in the world; and

WHEREAS, The theme of California Agriculture Day 2021 is "Celebrating Resilience," in recognition that farmers and farmworkers have strived to keep food on California's tables during a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Essential food chain workers have worked tirelessly in the fields, packing sheds, processing facilities, food banks, and grocery stores to ensure California's food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic and the largest wildfire season in the state's history; and

WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for approximately 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits,

vegetables, and nuts; and

WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the industry; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural community relies on a vital infrastructure that aids in the exclusion and early detection of plant and animal pests and diseases that impact public health, the environment, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, With less than 2 percent of California's population engaged in farming and agriculture, each agricultural worker today provides for more than 100 other people, compared to just 13 in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Today's agricultural industry offers over 300 challenging and rewarding career opportunities, from on-farm cultivation to food science and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Over the past seven decades, advances in agricultural production have resulted in a drop in consumer spending on food products from 22 percent of average household disposable income in 1949 to 11 percent today; and

WHEREAS, California is the nation's leader in agricultural exports, shipping \$21,700,000,000 of food and agricultural commodities around the world in 2019; and

WHEREAS, California's agricultural industry constantly seeks to incorporate the latest scientific and technological production and marketing techniques to meet the demands of changing consumer needs and complex world markets; and

WHEREAS, Public-private partnerships are continually being developed to improve quality and ensure safe handling practices on the farm, in transit, and during processing; and

WHEREAS, California consumers say that it is important to them to purchase food items grown in the state and they have demonstrated increased support of farmers' markets, community-supported agricultural programs, and Farm to School programs; and

WHEREAS, A broad approach to agricultural education is vital to ensure that California agricultural farms and ranches continue to flourish; and

WHEREAS, California is estimated to lose 500,000 acres of agricultural land by 2050, and more than 300,000 acres of it will have been highly productive irrigated cropland, and thus California should continue to work for conservation to preserve California's agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for all Californians to recognize our farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and others involved in providing such a bounty to our nation and the entire world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly recognizes and honors all those who work in California agriculture for their dedication and productivity by designating Wednesday, March 23, 2021, as California Agriculture Day and by observing March 23, 2021, as National Agriculture Day; and be it further

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

REVISIONS:

Heading—Line 3.
