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ACR-102 California Native American Day and the California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference.
(2025-2026)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 102

CHAPTER 191

Relative to California Native American Day and the California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 23, 2025.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 102, Ramos. California Native American Day and the California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference.

This measure would recognize the importance of California Native American Day, celebrated this year on September 26, 2025, and the annual California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference, to the enhancement of awareness of California Indian culture.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, More Native Americans call California home and the state includes more federally recognized Indian tribes than any other state in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The cultural and governmental contributions of the Native people of California have shaped the course of the state throughout history; and

WHEREAS, California designates the fourth Friday of every September as Native American Day; and

WHEREAS, California Native American Day is celebrated in this state by tribes and communities across the state, and is a day for educators of California to teach factual California Indian history in schools; and

WHEREAS, California Indian tribes are committed to continue contributing to the educational curricula provided by the state and believe in providing new and improved educational resources about the varied cultural histories of, and governance models used by, California Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, One notable example of the preservation and teaching of that varied cultural history is Robert Levi, a Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian from the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation, who was instrumental in retaining and teaching Desert Cahuilla bird songs to connect all with ancient knowledge of the world and tell the story of how the ancestors came to the homelands; and

WHEREAS, Significant legislation has been passed in both houses and signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom since 2018, such as Assembly Bill 2022 (2021), an act prohibiting the use of a racist and misogynistic slur for geographic features and place names in the State of California, and Assembly Bill 338 (2021), an act replacing a monument on the State Capitol grounds with a monument created with the input of local tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, Significant legislation has been passed to increase collaboration between tribes and local agencies, including Assembly Bill 1703 (2021), commonly referred to as the California Indian Education Act, encouraging local educational agencies to collaborate with tribes local to their area on Native American studies, and Assembly Bill 1284 (2024), an act authorizing the Natural Resources Agency to enter into cogovernance and comanagement agreements with federally recognized tribes to manage shared natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Significant legislation has been passed to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people, including Assembly Bill 1314 (2022), an act establishing the Feather Alert, a notification system for missing or murdered indigenous people; Assembly Bill 2108 (2024), an act refining the notification practices of the foster care system when youth go missing; and Assembly Bill 2348 (2024), an act making the process for requesting a Feather Alert much easier for families when loved ones go missing; and

WHEREAS, This year marked the third annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Candlelight Vigil on the Capitol grounds in recognition of the crisis that plagues the tribal community within this state and to remember those who have been lost; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, California held its first National Native American Heritage Month Parade at the Capitol Mall, celebrating the diverse cultures and people from the different tribal communities across California; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, California held its first California Indian Cultural Education Day at the Capitol grounds where students learned about tribal culture through active participation with California tribes; and

WHEREAS, This is the seventh California Native American Day since Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order apologizing for the historical wrongs tolerated, encouraged, subsidized, and committed by state actors against California Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, We can never undo the wrongs inflicted on the people who have lived on this land that we now call home, but we can work together to build bridges, tell the truth about California's past, and begin to heal deep wounds; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has also called for a California Truth and Healing Council to hear testimony and clarify the historical record on the relationship between the state and California Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, The California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference will be held concurrently with California Native American Day and will assist educators by providing new educational resources regarding the rich and varied lives of the California Indian Nations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the importance of California Native American Day, celebrated this year on September 26, 2025, and the annual California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference, to the enhancement of awareness of California Indian culture; and be it further

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