

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3

CHAPTER 87

Relative to extending statehood to Washington, D.C.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 14, 1993.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, McDonald. United States: statehood: Washington, D.C.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to extend statehood to Washington, D.C.

WHEREAS, The American Revolution and War for Independence was ultimately declared citing the principle "taxation without representation is tyranny," and there are nearly 650,000 taxpaying American citizens in the District of Columbia who have no federal voting representation in Congress; and

WHEREAS, Of the 117 countries in the world with elected national legislatures, the United States stands alone in depriving the residents of its capital a voice and a vote in our national legislative body; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents pay more federal income tax per capita than the residents of 48 states, and more in local taxes than the residents of any state in the country; and
WHEREAS, The District of Columbia's per capita income is \$32,000, exceeding the national average by 42 percent and is well positioned for growth as a leader in a number of service industries, for example, law, business services, communications, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents serve disproportionately in the military; have served in all wars since the War for Independence and during the Vietnam War, had more casualties than 10 states and more casualties per capita than 47 states; and

WHEREAS, The District of Columbia sent more soldiers to the Persian Gulf than 20 states (more per capita than all but four states), and yet had no voting representation on the floor of the House of Representatives or Senate when Congress approved military involvement; and

WHEREAS, There is no constitutional prohibition against creating the State of New Columbia out of nonfederal parts of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia meets all statehood requirements traditionally imposed by Congress; and

WHEREAS, The District of Columbia has 639,000 residents, nearly as many or more residents than six states: Wyoming (465,000), Alaska (552,000), Vermont (565,000), North Dakota (641,000), Delaware (669,000), and South Dakota (699,000) with each state possessing two Senators; and

WHEREAS, Historically, statehood has been granted when three criteria were met: (1) the people, through some democratic process, express their desire to become a state; (2) the people accept the republican form of government required by the United States Constitution and practiced in the United States; and (3) there are sufficient people and economic resources to support a state; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents have democratically expressed their desire to become a state through passage of a statehood referendum (November 1980); approval of a Constitution by district delegates (May 1982); transmittal of the Constitution and a petition for statehood (September 1983) to Congress; and in the tradition of Tennessee in 1796, election of their own statehood delegation to appeal to Congress to accept their petition for admission to the Union as the 51st state; and

WHEREAS, Statehood will provide District of Columbia residents with federal voting representation, as well as local legislative, budgetary, and judicial autonomy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress to extend statehood to Washington, D.C.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.