

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 37

Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Brownley, Chesbro,
De Leon, Eng, Hayashi, Jones, Lieu, Ma, Monning, John A. Perez,
Portantino, Salas, and ~~Torrico~~ Torrico, and Yamada)
(Coauthors: Senators DeSaulnier, Liu, and Lowenthal)

December 1, 2008

An act to add Section 66020 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 37, as amended, Furutani. Public postsecondary education: honorary degrees.

Under existing law, the segments of the public postsecondary education system in the state include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes these educational institutions to award various types of degrees.

This bill would require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and would request the Regents of the University of California, to *work*

with their respective colleges and universities to confer an honorary degree upon each person, living or deceased, who was forced to leave his or her postsecondary studies as a result of federal Executive Order 9066 which caused the incarceration of individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
4 issued Executive Order 9066, which caused the incarceration of
5 approximately 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese
6 ancestry in camps scattered throughout the United States during
7 World War II.

8 (2) Executive Order 9066 put the lives of these individuals, who
9 were forcibly relocated from their homes and communities and
10 unjustly detained by the United States government, on hold.

11 (3) On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson Reagan signed
12 into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, declaring that Executive
13 Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and hence was
14 caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political
15 leadership.

16 (4) The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on behalf of the
17 people of the United States for the evacuation, relocation, and
18 incarceration of Americans and permanent resident aliens of
19 Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for the
20 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were
21 incarcerated.

22 (5) The disruption of over 2,500 students' educational pursuits
23 was among the consequences of the country's wartime policy,
24 which removed students enrolled in California's colleges and
25 universities from their studies.

26 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that postsecondary
27 educational institutions confer an honorary degree upon each
28 individual whose studies at a postsecondary educational institution
29 were disrupted by Executive Order 9066, and to allow a

1 representative to accept an honorary degree on behalf of individuals
2 who are deceased.

3 SEC. 2. Section 66020 is added to the Education Code, to read:

4 66020. (a) The Trustees of the California State University and
5 the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges
6 shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested
7 to, *work with their respective colleges and universities to confer*
8 an honorary degree upon each person, living or deceased, who was
9 forced to leave his or her studies at the public postsecondary
10 educational institution in which that person was enrolled as a result
11 of the issuance of federal Executive Order 9066 on February 19,
12 1942, which caused the evacuation, relocation, and incarceration
13 of individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

14 (b) In cases where an honorary degree is conferred upon a person
15 who is deceased, the person's surviving next of kin, or another
16 representative chosen by the person's surviving next of kin, may
17 accept the honorary degree on the deceased person's behalf.

18 (c) Independent colleges and universities, as defined in
19 subdivision (b) of Section 66010, are urged to comply with the
20 terms of this section.