

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 1, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 91

Introduced by Assembly Member Chan

(Principal coauthor: Senator Alarcon)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Berg, Bermudez, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Dymally, Firebaugh, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Houston, Jackson, Keene, Kehoe, Koretz, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Matthews, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Pacheco, Plescia, Reyes, Ridley-Thomas, Salinas, Samuelian, Simitian, Spitzer, Steinberg, Strickland, Vargas, Wesson, Wiggins, Wolk, and Yee)

June 15, 2004

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 91—Relative to the trade assistance for services workers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 91, as introduced, Chan. Trade assistance for services workers.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, which provides assistance during extended periods of unemployment to workers who lose their jobs as a result of increased imports, to services workers.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The trade adjustment assistance program (19
2 U.S.C. Sec. 2271 et seq.), first enacted 30 years ago in the Trade
3 Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. Sec. 2101 et seq.), was created to help
4 American workers who lost jobs as a result of increased imports,
5 by providing assistance during extended periods of
6 unemployment, including up to an additional year of income
7 support, a full range of employment services (such as classroom
8 and on-the-job training), and tax credits to help cover monthly
9 health insurance premiums; and

10 WHEREAS, The benefits of the trade adjustment assistance
11 program were originally limited to displaced manufacturing
12 workers in response to global competition in manufactured goods,
13 and were extended in 2002 to farmers and fishermen and
14 fisherwomen, but have not been extended to services workers; and

15 WHEREAS, Services workers account for 81 percent of
16 nonfarm jobs in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The nature of the global economy has changed
18 dramatically, and the United States' trade agreements and digital
19 technologies have opened up the services and high tech sectors of
20 the United States economy to rapidly increasing international
21 competition, as work is transferred to virtual workforces across the
22 globe; and

23 WHEREAS, California's high tech workers are heavily
24 impacted by global trade in which information technology skills,
25 knowledge, and services can be outsourced offshore, as evidenced
26 in part by a 19-percent decline in jobs in the Silicon Valley in the
27 last three years; and

28 WHEREAS, The benefits of the trade adjustment assistance
29 program can only be provided after the Department of Labor has
30 certified a "dislocation" as a result of increased imports of goods,
31 and only an average of 2,800 California workers have qualified for
32 trade adjustment assistance benefits in each of the last three years;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Members of Congress have sought to address this
35 inequity by introducing legislation to extend trade adjustment
36 assistance to services workers; and

37 WHEREAS, Businesses engaged in global markets, such as
38 electronics, support the expansion of worker retraining programs,
39 such as the trade adjustment assistance program, to displaced
40 services workers; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
2 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California believes that
3 the federal workforce support system should reflect the economy
4 of the 21st century and assist all trade-impacted dislocated
5 workers, including services workers, and that assisting these
6 workers to attain new jobs will require public investments in
7 retraining and support; and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully requests the
9 President and the Congress to extend the benefits of the trade
10 adjustment assistance program to American services workers
11 displaced by global trade; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
13 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
14 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
15 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
16 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
17 States.

