

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 614**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Thomson and Bill Campbell  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Negrete McLeod)**

(Principal coauthor: Senator McPherson)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members John Campbell, Cardoza,  
Corbett, Dickerson, Hertzberg, Kehoe, Leonard, Maddox,  
Matthews, Nation, Salinas, Shelley, Strom-Martin, and Wayne)**

February 22, 2001

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An act to add Section 424.3 to the Government Code, relating to the State of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 614, as introduced, Thomson. State of California: official State Tartan.

Existing law designates the state's flag, motto, nickname, flower, dance, song, tree, reptile, bird, colors, insect, animal, mineral, rock, gemstone, marine mammal, marine fish, soil, fossil, and prehistoric artifact.

This bill would designate the official State Tartan, as described.

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

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

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

1 (a) The Scottish people and their descendants have  
2 traditionally utilized woven fabrics, called tartan, as emblematic  
3 of their family and cultural heritage.

4 (b) The oppression of Scots included the Dress Act of 1747,  
5 which was suppressive legislation that forbade wearing the kilt,  
6 playing the bagpipe, or even displaying a swatch of tartan. The  
7 penalty for breaking this law was six months in jail on the first  
8 offense and on the second offense deportation to the colonies in  
9 America or Australia for seven years of indentured labor.

10 (c) The tartan is a symbol of Scottish courage in the face of  
11 adversity, of loyalty to family and friend, and of the human  
12 qualities of perseverance in a just cause and strength in the resolve  
13 that freedom is for the many, not the few, which may serve as a  
14 continuing inspiration for all people today.

15 (d) California is the most culturally diverse state in the nation.  
16 Californians of Scottish, Scots-Irish, and other Celtic descent have  
17 made major contributions to the history and development of the  
18 state.

19 (e) The state's natural splendor and history have been  
20 symbolized in the pattern and colors of the California Tartan sett  
21 based on the family tartan of the revered John Muir, but with  
22 sufficient originality as to be independently recordable with the  
23 Scottish Tartan Authority as a unique tartan. The tartan's blue  
24 reflects the sky, the ocean, and the state's rivers and lakes, while  
25 the green stands for the state's mountains, fields, and parks. The  
26 red, gold, and blue seams signify the arts, sciences, agriculture,  
27 and industry of California.

28 SEC. 2. Section 424.3 is added to the Government Code, to  
29 read:

30 424.3. (a) The tartan defined in subdivision (b) is the official  
31 State Tartan, and may be claimed by any resident of the state.

32 (b) The official State Tartan is generally described as a pattern  
33 or sett consisting of alternate squares of meadow green and pacific  
34 blue that are separated and surrounded by narrow charcoal bands.  
35 The squares of meadow green are divided by a gold seam that is  
36 supported by charcoal lines on each side. There are three redwood  
37 stripes, the middle of which is broader, that are added to each side  
38 of the gold seam. The pacific blue square is divided by a sky blue  
39 stripe, which is supported on each side by charcoal lines.

40 The tartan is specifically defined by the following weave code:



1 Y..B..G..S..G...S..G..S..G..B..A..B..K... Ancient Colors  
2 8...2..20..4..20..8..20..4..20..32..56..2...8... Full Pivots  
3 This weave code means that the threads begin with 8 threads of  
4 yellow, followed by 2 threads of black, 20 threads of green, 4  
5 threads of scarlet, 20 threads of green, 8 threads of scarlet, 20  
6 threads of green, 4 threads of scarlet, 20 threads of green, 32  
7 threads of black, 56 threads of azure, 2 threads of black, and 8  
8 threads of sky blue. At that point the weave pivots and returns,  
9 beginning with 2 threads of black, and continuing the sequence in  
10 reverse order through 8 threads of yellow, at which point it pivots  
11 back again.

