

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 965

Introduced by Assembly Member Kehoe

February 20, 2003

An act to add Section 423.5 to the Government Code, relating to state emblems.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 965, as introduced, Kehoe. State emblems: official state tall ship.

Existing law establishes the state flag and the state's emblems, including, among other things, the poppy as the official state flower and the California redwood as the official state tree.

This bill would establish "the Californian" as the official state tall ship.

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. (a) In 1983, the Assembly adopted with the
2 Senate concurring, Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69,
3 relative to the tall ship Californian, and designating the Californian
4 as the official tall ship ambassador of California.

5 (b) For the last twenty years, the Californian has served as the
6 official tall ship ambassador of California and the Californian
7 represented the State of California during the 1984 Olympics held
8 in Los Angeles and at OP-Sail 86 which celebrated the centennial
9 of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor and the Californian

1 has also represented the state numerous times in locations such as
2 Hawaii, Canada, Mexico and most recently during the California
3 Sesquicentennial in 1999 and the Tall Ships Challenge California
4 2002.

5 (c) The Legislature commended the Nautical Heritage
6 Museum located in Orange County for the construction of the
7 Californian, a full-scale recreation of the 1848 vintage Revenue
8 Cutter Lawrence. The Lawrence sailed from Washington DC in
9 November 1848 for California, tasked with the responsibility of
10 bringing law and order to America's newest and wealthiest
11 maritime acquisition. The Lawrence arrived in San Francisco on
12 October 31, 1849, nearly a year after her departure.

13 (d) For two years, Lawrence operated along the California
14 coastline between the cities of San Diego and San Francisco,
15 enforcing customs regulations, assisting in the rescue of some
16 ships and the quelling of mutiny in others, imposing the
17 peacemaking authority of her company and her cannon on a
18 frequently turbulent and riotous San Francisco, and, in general,
19 exerting the authority of the United States Government.

20 (e) En route to San Francisco from a patrol of Southern
21 California ports, on November 25, 1851, the Lawrence wrecked
22 off Point Lobos, ending the career of the first ship to lend substance
23 to the notion of California's statehood by being the only expression
24 of United States government authority.

25 (f) The Californian was built from the ground up in 1984 at
26 Spanish Landing in San Diego Bay. Since its launching in 1984 the
27 Californian has served as an educational tool for Californians of
28 all ages in the distinguished tradition of California tall ships.

29 (g) The Californian was recently acquired by the San Diego
30 Maritime Museum and the preservation of California's precious
31 maritime heritage is the primary goal of the San Diego Maritime
32 Museum and the museum is to be commended for its plans for
33 refurbishing the Californian.

34 (h) Nowhere in the world today does there exist a replica of
35 these early Revenue Cutters that once protected America's
36 coastlines. The building of the Californian restored to California's
37 shores the grace, beauty, and indomitable spirit of the single coast
38 guard cutter that maintained law and order during the frenzy of
39 California's Gold Rush.



1 (i) The Californian carries a carved figurehead of Queen
2 Calafia, namesake of California, and the ship's transom
3 ornamented by two California golden grizzly bears on either side
4 of a flowing ribbon in which her name is carved.

5 (j) The educational and cultural potential of the Californian as
6 an embodiment of California's role in the great age of sail is
7 thereby enhanced through its membership in one of the world's
8 great institutional collections of historic ships. The San Diego
9 Maritime Museum will operate the Californian as an educational
10 vessel and historic asset to promote and encourage an appreciation
11 of the maritime heritage and coastal resources of the State of
12 California.

13 (k) The San Diego Maritime Museum will make the
14 Californian available to the state for official functions and to
15 represent the state at tall ship events, and sail the Californian along
16 the California coast to visit other ports and nautical museums so
17 that all Californians can learn about the proud nautical heritage of
18 California.

19 (l) Other states such as Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey,
20 Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island have designated official tall ships
21 for their states.

22 (m) The State of California has adopted numerous state
23 emblems, and with passage of this measure, the Legislature
24 declares the Californian to be California's official tall ship.

25 SEC. 2. Section 423.5 is added to the Government Code, to
26 read:

27 423.5. "The Californian" is the official state tall ship.

