

RESOLUTION 16-130

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF YES ON PROPOSITION 54, THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE TRANSPARENCY ACT

WHEREAS, it is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business by the California Legislature be performed in an open and public manner and residents be given the opportunity to fully review every bill and express their views regarding the bill's merits to their elected representatives, before it is passed; and

WHEREAS, last-minute amendments to bills in the Legislature are frequently pushed through without sufficient opportunities for advance notice or public comment providing members of the Legislature with no realistic opportunity to review or debate them, resulting in ill-considered legislation; and

WHEREAS, few citizens have the ability to attend legislative proceedings in person, and many legislative proceedings go completely unobserved by the public and press, often leaving no record of what was said; and

WHEREAS, with the availability of modern recording technology and the Internet, there is no reason why public legislative proceedings should remain relatively inaccessible to the citizens that they serve; and

WHEREAS, California should also follow the lead of other states that require a 72-hour advance notice period between the time a bill is printed and made available to the public and the time it is put to a vote, allowing an exception only in the case of a true emergency, such as a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS Proposition 54, the California Legislature Transparency Act, prohibits the Legislature from voting on a bill until it has been published online in its final form for at least 72 hours. In addition, Proposition 54:

- a. Allows this 72-hour notice period to be waived to address a state emergency declared by the Governor, followed by a two thirds vote of the legislative body, prior to action being taken on the measure for which the rules are being waved; and
- b. Requires the Legislature, by January 1, 2019, to ensure audiovisual recordings of all public proceedings are publicly accessible on the Internet within 24 hours and archived for at least 20 years thereafter (excludes closed session meetings), and allows all recordings of public proceedings to be used for any legitimate purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Carson, California, supports Proposition 54, the California Legislature Transparency Act.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City of Carson, California.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 20th day of September, 2016.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia L. Gause, CMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney