

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING THE
2 YEAR OF 2014 AS THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVIL
3 RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.
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5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, on June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy called for legis-
7 lation "...giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities which
8 are open to the public -- hotels, restaurants, theaters, retail stores, and
9 similar establishments," as well as "...greater protection for the right to
10 vote."; and

11 WHEREAS, following President Kennedy's assassination, newly sworn-in
12 President Lyndon B. Johnson first addressed the joint session of Congress on
13 November 27, 1963, telling legislators, "No memorial oration or eulogy could
14 more eloquently honor President Kennedy's memory than the earliest possible
15 passage of the civil rights bill for which he fought so long."; and

16 WHEREAS, upon the ending of a fifty-seven day filibuster in the Senate,
17 then Democratic Whip Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, the bill's manager, de-
18 clared he had the appropriate number of votes to pass the legislation out of
19 the Senate and subsequently the bill was passed by the House of Representa-
20 tives; and

21 WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law by President
22 Johnson on July 2, 1964; and

23 WHEREAS, upon the signing of the Civil Rights Act, President Johnson ad-
24 dressed the American public on July 2, 1964 stating that the newly passed act
25 "...does not restrict the freedom of any American, so long as he respects the
26 rights of others. It does not give special treatment to any citizen.... It
27 does say that there are those who are equal before God shall now also be equal
28 in the polling booths, in the classrooms, in the factories, and in hotels,
29 restaurants, movie theaters, and other places that provide service to the
30 public.... This Civil Rights Act is a challenge to all of us to go to work in
31 our communities and our States, in our homes and in our hearts, to eliminate
32 the last vestiges of injustice in our beloved country."; and

33 WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 sets a benchmark standard for
34 civil rights protection across each of the fifty United States. The Act pro-
35 hibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national
36 origin and brought an end to the tumultuous era of racial segregation. Its
37 passage set the precedent that discrimination would no longer be codified
38 and was further expanded in 1965 to encompass equal voting rights for all
39 citizens; and

40 WHEREAS, under the leadership of then Senator Phil Batt, the Civil
41 Rights Act of 1964 was enshrined in Idaho statute as the Idaho Human Rights
42 Act in 1969. The Idaho Human Rights Act originally prohibited discrimina-

1 tion in employment, education, real estate transactions and public accommo-
2 dations on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin and religion.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
4 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
5 resentatives concurring therein, that we do hereby commemorate and recog-
6 nize the year of 2014 as the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Civil
7 Rights Act of 1964 and that Idaho citizens be encouraged to honor and cele-
8 brate this momentous piece of landmark legislation.