

Hi, this is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento governmental relations firm of Aprea & Michele and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law. Today's podcast is on resolutions in the California Legislature.

So what exactly is a resolution? Although resolutions and concurrent resolutions are mentioned several times in the California Constitution, Article IV, neither term is defined in that document. There also is not a definition for either term found in the Government Code. But a traditional definition of a resolution is a written motion that's considered for adoption by a legislative body.

Fundamentally, a resolution is a written measure that expresses the will of the Legislature. As opposed to a bill, once adopted a resolution does not have the force or effect of law. In California, there are several types of resolutions. Two are defined by the California` Legislative Counsel.

The Counsel gives definitions for concurrent and joint resolutions. A concurrent resolution is a measure that's introduced in one house that if it's approved must be sent to the other house for approval as well. Concurrent resolutions require action or states the Legislature's position on a particular issue. The Governor's signature is not required. These measures usually involve the internal business of the Legislature.

The Assembly version of a concurrent resolution uses the acronym ACR. The Senate version uses the acronym SCR.

As to joint resolution, they're defined as a resolution expressing the Legislature's opinion about a matter within the jurisdiction of the federal government. Once adopted the resolution is forwarded to Congress for its information. A joint resolution requires the approval the both the Assembly and the Senate, but it does not require signature by the Governor.

The Senate version uses the acronym SJR, while the Assembly version uses the acronym AJR.

The third and final type of resolution in the California Legislature is a house resolution. There are also technically memorial resolutions. A memorial resolution is one used to convey the sympathy of the Legislature, such as on the passing of a constituent or a dignitary. But the third major type is a house resolution.

It's used to adopt rules for the individual house. These types of resolutions involve the internal business of a single house of the Legislature, and they only require passage in that one house. The Assembly version uses the acronym HR, while the Senate version uses the acronym SR.

And that's a look at resolutions in the California Legislature. Thanks for joining.