

Date of Hearing: August 15, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, TOURISM, AND  
INTERNET MEDIA

Kansen Chu, Chair

SCR 114 (Stern) – As Amended June 28, 2018

**SENATE VOTE:** 35-0

**SUBJECT:** World Cup 2026

**SUMMARY:** Declares that the State of California welcomes the hosting of World Cup 2026, declares the state's full support of local organizing committees in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles area to be selected as World Cup 2026 sites, and encourages the Governor and all affected state departments to cooperate with those committees. Specifically, **this Resolution** makes the following findings:

- 1) The Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the world governing body for soccer, upon application of the United Bid Committee, which represents the soccer federations of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, has designated these three countries as the host region for World Cup 2026, the world's largest single sporting event.
- 2) The San Francisco Bay area and the Los Angeles area are bidding to become two of the 12 communities throughout North America that will host World Cup 2026 matches in June and July 2026.
- 3) California is the United States' west coast gateway to the international stage and within its jurisdiction offers the greatest range of ethnic heritage and diversity in the United States, with many of our people being born and raised in countries where soccer is the major sport.
- 4) The State of California actively supported the conduct of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the 1994 World Cup in the United States, and the 2015 Special Olympic Games by passing appropriate legislation that was necessary to facilitate the conduct of these games.
- 5) It is anticipated that hosting World Cup 2026 will result in a positive economic impact on the State of California while enhancing the international reputation of the state.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations "Potential future state cost pressure in the tens to millions of dollars should San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles be chosen as venue sites if North America wins the bid to host the World Cup 2026."

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Author's Statement.** According to the author, "SCR 114 would declare that the State of California welcomes the hosting of the World Cup in 2026 in Los Angeles and the SF Bay Area. Hosting the World Cup games in California would reinvigorate interest in our

local franchises and youth leagues, which generate significant local jobs and economic activity in our communities. California is home to 3 MLS Soccer Clubs\* (more than any other state), 330,000 youth and adult players, and numerous male and female professional players on the US National Teams, including Alex Morgan, Landon Donovan, and Megan Rapinoe.”

\*Committee note: Two Soccer Clubs are in Los Angeles and one is in the Bay area.

- 2) **Background.** In April 2017, the soccer federation presidents of Canada, Mexico and the United States announced that they would submit a joint bid to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The North American bid is currently competing with Morocco for hosting rights for the 2026 World Cup. The FIFA council is currently evaluating the two bids and is expected to announce a final decision in June 2018 at the FIFA Congress in Moscow. The United States hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1994 and the FIFA Women’s World Cup in 1999 and 2003. Los Angeles and San Francisco were among the host cities for both the 1994 and 1999 events. The Rose Bowl stadium (Los Angeles area) and Levi’s Stadium (San Francisco Bay area) are currently in the bid process with 15 other venues across the U.S, three venues in Mexico, and three venues in Canada.
- 3) **Staff Comment.** The Committee has recently heard legislation regarding the Los Angeles bid to host the 2024 Summer Olympics. While Paris was chosen to host the 2024 Olympics, Los Angeles obtained a successful bid for the 2028 Summer Olympics.

The Committee suggests that the local organizing committees coordinate their presentations to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) to maximize their chances of success by pointing out the coordinated effort will reduce costs and eliminate redundancies.

- 4) **Author’s amendments to be taken in Committee.** In order to clarify this Resolution’s scope of support to World Cup Soccer, the Author has agreed to strike references to the Olympics in the final Resolve clause.
- 5) **Prior related legislation.**
  - a) AB 132 (Jones-Sawyer), Chapter 836, Statutes of 2017, authorizes the Governor to execute games support contracts, not to exceed \$270 million, in connection with the site selection process for the City of Los Angeles to become the host for the 2028 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. These games support contracts would accept financial liability to provide the state security for amounts owed by the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) and for any financial deficit accruing to the OCOG as a result of the hosting of the games by the City of Los Angeles.
  - b) SB 1465 (de Leon), Chapter 802, Statutes of 2016, authorized the Governor to execute games support contracts in connection with the site selection process for the City of Los Angeles to host the 2024 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, that accept financial liability (not to exceed \$250 million) in state security for amounts owed by the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games as a result of hosting the games by the City of Los Angeles. It also established the Olympic Games Trust Fund

- as a special fund within the State Treasury for the sole purpose of fulfilling the obligations of the state under a games support contract to provide the state security.
- c) SCR 49 (Gaines), Resolution Chapter 86, Statutes of 2011, urged the California Winter Games Committee to consider Lake Tahoe as a host region for the Winter Games.
  - d) AB 300 (Nunez), Chapter 4, Statutes of 2007, authorized the Governor to sign agreements required by the USOC as part of the City of Los Angeles' 2016 Olympic Games bid process. The bill also authorized the Governor to make the state jointly liable (not to exceed \$250 million), as specified, with the OCOG, a nonprofit corporation, for obligations of the OCOG and for any financial deficit relating to the games, and established the Olympic Games Trust Fund.
  - e) SB 1987 (Burton), Chapter 16, Statutes of 2002, established a structure for the state to indemnify, insure and provide financial guarantees up to \$250 million as required by the USOC to further the bid of the San Francisco Bay Area to host the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. The bill also provided the Governor the authority to sign any contracts on behalf of the state as part of the bid process.
  - f) ACR 52 (Sher), Resolution Chapter 67, Statutes of 1994, declared the Legislature's full support for the bids of the San Francisco Bay area and the Los Angeles area for soccer match sites during World Cup 1994, and requests the Governor and state agencies to cooperate and work with the World Cup 1994 organizing committees.

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