

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona territory; 150th anniversary

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
First Regular Session
2013

HCR 2034

Introduced by

Representatives Seel, Gowan, Kwasman, Livingston, Mitchell, Smith, Steele, Stevens, Tobin, Townsend: Allen, Alston, Barton, Borrelli, Brophy McGee, Campbell, Carter, Coleman, Contreras, Dalessandro, Dial, Escamilla, Fann, Farnsworth, Forese, Gonzales, Goodale, Gray, Hale, Hernández, Kavanagh, Larkin, Lesko, Lovas, McCune Davis, Mesnard, Miranda, Montenegro, Olson, Orr, Peshlakai, Petersen, Pratt, Robson, Saldate, Shope, Thorpe, Ugenti, Wheeler, Senators Biggs, Burges, Crandell, Griffin, McGuire, Melvin, Shooter, Ward (with permission of Committee on Rules)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ARIZONA TERRITORY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the rich history of Arizona includes the genealogy of the
2 Native American peoples hundreds of years before the time of Christ; and

3 Whereas, the beauty and grandeur of Arizona was written about by
4 Spanish conquistadors and padres eighty years before the Pilgrims landed on
5 the East Coast; and

6 Whereas, on February 2, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo granted
7 the area to the United States government following the War with Mexico,
8 making Arizona part of the New Mexico Territory; and

9 Whereas, the Gadsden Purchase of 1854 added the area south of the Gila
10 River to the New Mexico Territory; and

11 Whereas, this land, now known as Arizona, was made separate from the
12 New Mexico Territory along the 34th parallel with Arizona occupying the
13 southern half of the divide; and

14 Whereas, from 1850-1860, ten bills supporting separation of territories
15 failed in the Congress of the United States; and

16 Whereas, Arizona was added as a county of New Mexico with the seat in
17 Tucson in 1860; and

18 Whereas, on February 14, 1862, Arizona became a territory of the
19 Confederate States of America; and

20 Whereas, in June 1862, Union soldiers captured Tucson and claimed the
21 territory for the United States of America; and

22 Whereas, when H.R. 357 passed the United States House of
23 Representatives on May 8, 1862, our great nation was engulfed in a horrendous
24 civil war; and

25 Whereas, this land, now known as Arizona, was made separate from the
26 New Mexico Territory by this bill, dividing Arizona and New Mexico into
27 separate territories along the 109th meridian; and

28 Whereas, this Act forbade slavery or forced servitude in this territory
29 and in all territories that may follow thereafter; and

30 Whereas, more commonly known as the Organic Act, this bill, when signed
31 into law, provided for the organization of territorial republic governance of
32 executive, legislative and judicial powers; and

33 Whereas, the Organic Act provided for the creation of the State of
34 Arizona under the provisions of the United States Constitution; and

35 Whereas, President Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the
36 United States, signed the Organic Act into law on February 24, 1863, creating
37 the Territory of Arizona and establishing Prescott as the Capitol.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
40 Senate concurring:

41 1. That the Members of the Legislature celebrate the 150th year
42 anniversary of the passage of the enabling legislation on February 24, 1863
43 that established the Territory of Arizona.

44 2. That the Members of the Legislature encourage the citizens of the
45 State of Arizona to take special pride in knowing that personal liberty,
46 individual rights and fair government are imbued in this historic Act that
47 gave birth to the Grand Canyon State of Arizona.