

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION FOR A STATUE TO**  
2                   **RECOGNIZE FATHER DOMINGUEZ AND FATHER**  
3                   **ESCALANTE**

4                   2016 GENERAL SESSION

5                   STATE OF UTAH

6                   **Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Wheatley**

7                   Senate Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

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9                   **LONG TITLE**

10                  **General Description:**

11                  This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges that a statue of  
12                  Father Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Father Silvestre Velez de Escalante be  
13                  erected in the Utah State Capitol to recognize the life and accomplishments of Fathers  
14                  Dominguez and Escalante and their impact on citizens of Utah and the western United  
15                  States.

16                  **Highlighted Provisions:**

17                  This resolution:

- 18                  ▶ urges that a statue of Father Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Father Silvestre  
19                  Velez de Escalante be erected in the Utah State Capitol to recognize the  
20                  extraordinary lives and accomplishments of Fathers Dominguez and Escalante; and
- 21                  ▶ recognizes Father Dominguez's and Father Escalante's accomplishments and impact  
22                  for good on Utah, its citizens, and citizens of the western United States.

23                  **Special Clauses:**

24                  None

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26                  *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

27                  WHEREAS, Father Francisco Atanasio Dominguez, a native of Mexico, and Father



28 Silvestre Velez de Escalante, born in Spain, were Catholic priests instructed by their Franciscan  
29 superiors and the Spanish government in 1776 to search for an overland route between Santa  
30 Fe, New Mexico, and Monterey, California;

31 WHEREAS, Fathers Dominguez and Escalante were tasked to evaluate the lives of  
32 frontier priests, assess the value of the Santa Fe Archives ravaged by Pueblo Indians in the  
33 1680 revolt, and inspect the New Mexico missions;

34 WHEREAS, while Spaniards had only a vague idea of the lands of Utah, the  
35 Dominguez-Escalante Expedition confirmed the existence of inhabitants unconverted to  
36 Christianity in Utah and established trails that benefitted traders for years to come;

37 WHEREAS, Fathers Dominguez and Escalante kept excellent records about the land,  
38 plants, and animal life of Utah, and mapped many features of the Four Corners area;

39 WHEREAS, the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition provided useful ecclesiastical and  
40 political information on the territory they explored, including information on the Utah Valley,  
41 Spanish Fork, Cedar City, and Lake Powell areas;

42 WHEREAS, the town of Escalante, Utah, and the Escalante River are both named after  
43 Father Escalante;

44 WHEREAS, history shows that the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition contacted the Ute  
45 Indians living in Utah and preached Christianity to them;

46 WHEREAS, the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition paved the way for explorers and  
47 settlers, informing future generations about geological information;

48 WHEREAS, even though no direct link was established between Santa Fe and  
49 Monterey, the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition resulted in the establishment of the interior  
50 West, which was at last explored and chronicled;

51 WHEREAS, the journals and maps of the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition became  
52 invaluable tools to those who would eventually establish the Old Spanish Trail between Santa  
53 Fe and Los Angeles in the 1800s;

54 WHEREAS, over 200 years ago, Fathers Dominguez and Escalante proposed Utah  
55 Valley as a place where the Spanish could establish settlement;

56 WHEREAS, 50,000 Latinos now reside in and call Utah Valley home;

57 WHEREAS, Utah currently is a growing state with a changing, diverse demographic,  
58 including the youth of tomorrow;

59 WHEREAS, children can make the connection that Utah is for all residents of the  
60 United States and the rest of the world, not exclusively for residents of Utah, thanks to the  
61 Dominguez-Escalante Expedition; and

62 WHEREAS, Utah's first connection to Latinos was through Fathers Dominguez and  
63 Escalante:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
65 Governor concurring therein, urges that a statue of Fathers Dominguez and Escalante be  
66 erected in the Utah State Capitol in recognition of their extraordinary lives and  
67 accomplishments that have bettered the lives of Utahns and many millions of other people  
68 throughout the western United States.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge that the  
70 Capitol Preservation Board continue to facilitate the process of having the statue funded from  
71 private sources and placed in the Utah State Capitol.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Catholic  
73 Diocese of Salt Lake City and the Capitol Preservation Board.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**