In September 2013, California passed a resolution (SCR-62) to put more women on the boards of directors of public companies. Although SCR-62 is nonbinding, it sends a powerful message to California’s public companies. It reads:

“Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, that the Legislature acknowledges that the body of evidence to date concludes that companies perform better when their boards and executive leadership include women, and that the State of California has a significant stake in both protecting the shareholders of publicly traded companies, as well as setting policies that enable them to perform better.”

Standards of SCR-62

Our UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders 2012–13 was, in part, the impetus for this action, and our findings are cited in the resolution. The resolution “encourages equitable and diverse gender representation on corporate boards.”

SCR-62 urges that by December 2016, publicly held corporations in California with nine or more directors have at least three women on the board; companies with five to eight directors have at least two women on the board; and companies with fewer than five directors have at least one woman on the board.

Key Statistic

Our study shows that 351 (87.8%) of the 400 largest public companies in California do not meet the standards of SCR-62, while 88 of those companies could meet the standards by expanding their board to add one more woman.

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2 California State Concurrent Resolution 62, approved by the Senate on August 26, 2013, and the Assembly on September 12, 2013, is available at gsm.ucdavis.edu/women.

3 Ibid.