

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 31

Introduced by Senator Burton

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Alquist, Ashburn, Bates, Bogh, Briggs, Calderon, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Chan, Chavez, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dickerson, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frommer, Goldberg, Harman, Havice, Hertzberg, Hollingsworth, Jackson, Keeley, Kehoe, Kelley, Koretz, La Suer, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Migden, Mountjoy, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pavley, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Runner, Salinas, Shelley, Simitian, Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thomson, Vargas, Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wiggins, Wright, Wyland, Wyman, and Zettel)

May 9, 2001

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to 9-1-1 for Kids Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 31, as amended, Burton. 9-1-1 for Kids Week.

This measure would designate the Week of May 14 through May 18, 2001, as "9-1-1 for Kids Week" in the State of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Every year, hundreds of thousands of calls are
2 received at 9-1-1 emergency system centers across the state; and
3 WHEREAS, Over 20 percent of all calls made to those 9-1-1
4 emergency system centers are "abandoned" calls, where the caller

1 either hangs up or does not speak, all of which must be traced by
2 emergency system center personnel at enormous public cost; and
3 WHEREAS, In Houston, Texas, public safety officials found
4 that 50 percent of the 160,000 9-1-1 calls that were dispatched in
5 1994 were deemed not to be emergencies and, at a median cost of
6 \$350 for each basic emergency medical services response, the City
7 of Houston alone could save \$12,000,000 per year by eliminating
8 these nonemergency 9-1-1 calls; and

9 WHEREAS, Many 9-1-1 callers are young and curious or thrill
10 seekers who do not understand that their misuse and abuse of the
11 system wastes public resources and diverts emergency personnel
12 and equipment from others who desperately need help; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1991 the San Jose Police Department, the
14 California Chapter of the National Emergency Number
15 Association, the State of California 9-1-1 Program office,
16 corporations, and individuals began a collaborative effort to
17 develop 9-1-1 educational materials targeting children, ages 4 to
18 7 years; and

19 WHEREAS, In the summer of 1994, work began on a “9-1-1
20 for Kids” curriculum and set of educational materials that would
21 deliver easy to remember messages about the proper use of the
22 9-1-1 emergency system, hold children’s interest, have universal
23 appeal to all children, have guaranteed wide application, and have
24 a long shelf-life; and

25 WHEREAS, Emmy and Peabody Award winning Tony Urbano
26 Productions joined the project team and created the 9-1-1 for Kids
27 mascot, “Red E. Fox,” that has captivated children and adults
28 alike and helped deliver critical 9-1-1 information in a fun and
29 memorable manner; and

30 WHEREAS, The nonprofit organization “9-1-1 for Kids” was
31 formed in 1995 to distribute training program materials to public
32 safety agencies, schools, and community-based organizations
33 throughout the state, and this tax-exempt organization is located
34 at 355 Redondo Avenue, Long Beach, California 90814; and

35 WHEREAS, To date, the 9-1-1 for Kids educational program
36 has been taught to over 1,000,000 children, ages 4 to 7 years,
37 through the tireless, dedicated efforts of teachers, police officers,
38 firefighters, and community volunteers; and

39 WHEREAS, 9-1-1 for Kids hopes to provide materials to teach
40 another 500,000 children during 1999; and



1 WHEREAS, Children who complete the 9-1-1 for Kids
2 classroom educational program will learn what an emergency is
3 for purposes of using the 9-1-1 emergency system, how to place
4 a 9-1-1 emergency call, and what to say to a 9-1-1 dispatcher in
5 case of a police, fire, or medical emergency, and armed with this
6 basic 9-1-1 information, children who complete the 9-1-1 for Kids
7 training program will be able to call for help when they need it for
8 themselves or for others, save lives and property, and avoid costly
9 abuses of the 9-1-1 emergency system, and

10 WHEREAS, The State 9-1-1 Program, in the
11 Telecommunications Division of the State Department of General
12 Services, has recognized the 9-1-1 for Kids educational program
13 as one of the most effective 9-1-1 emergency system classroom
14 programs available; and

15 WHEREAS, National Football League star, Tim Brown, the
16 captain of the Oakland Raiders and the 1987 Heisman Trophy
17 winner, serves as the national spokesperson for 9-1-1 for Kids;
18 now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
20 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
21 week of May 14, 2001, to May 18, 2001, inclusive, as “9-1-1 for
22 Kids Week” in the State of California, in recognition of the
23 valuable work of the 9-1-1 for Kids program; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
25 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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