

Senate Joint Resolution No. 49

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 137

Senate Joint Resolution No. 49—Relative to human exposure to environmental chemicals.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 3, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 49, Ortiz. Human exposure to environmental chemicals.

This measure would memorialize the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the California Congressional delegation to seek the immediate release to the State Department of Health Services, and thereby to the California public, of the California-specific findings from the 1999 CDC, National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This measure would further memorialize the Director of CDC to release all California-specific findings from the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals that is due by December 2002, at the time the report is issued.

WHEREAS, In 1999, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, a new publication that provides an ongoing assessment of the United States population's exposure to environmental chemicals using biomonitoring; and

WHEREAS, "Environmental chemical" means a chemical compound or chemical element present in air, water, soil, dust, food, or other environmental media, and "biomonitoring" is the assessment of human exposure to chemicals by measuring the chemicals or their metabolites in human specimens, such as blood or urine collected in the representative survey known as the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES); and

WHEREAS, It is important to know which chemicals are stored in the body because they act as a "reservoir" for continued exposure, with potentially serious health consequences, since a chemical that accumulates in the body over time can increase the potential for disease to occur; and

WHEREAS, The first edition of the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals presents levels of 27 environmental chemicals measured in the United States population,



including metals such as lead, mercury, uranium, cotinine, a marker of tobacco smoke exposure, and organophosphate pesticide metabolites, as well as phthalates; and

WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals determines the toxic substances to which Americans are exposed, as well as populations at risk, volumes of toxic substances used, and exposure trends; and

WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals determines whether interventions to reduce exposure have been effective; and

WHEREAS, In collaboration with other federal agencies, the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals provides additional information on interpreting lab measurements, including potential sources of exposure and human toxicity; and

WHEREAS, The next National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals is due to be issued by December 2002 and will analyze 75 chemicals; and

WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals' findings, organized by state and demographics, were to be made available in January of 2002; and

WHEREAS, California is a world leader in clean air and water standards, often improving upon federal standards; and

WHEREAS, The California survey within the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals constitutes a valid sample in its own right; and

WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals' specific findings for the State of California will help the State Department of Health Services, the Legislature, and the Governor's office to address California's environmental health needs; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services is responsible for developing a plan to establish an environmental health tracking system by 2003, a project that requires collation of all available data sets; and

WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals will inform the planning process as California builds capacity at state biomonitoring facilities; and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services needs to make a budgetary commitment to additional biomonitoring to augment CDC findings; and

WHEREAS, The California public has the right to information regarding regional exposures to particular chemicals; and



WHEREAS, California findings on particular chemicals will serve as an information base for populations concerned about decreasing chemical risks in their communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the California Congressional delegation to seek the immediate release to the State Department of Health Services, and thereby to the California public, of the California-specific findings from the 1999 CDC National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to release to the State Department of Health Services all California-specific findings from the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals that is due to be issued by December 2002, at the time that report is issued; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

