

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 1

Introduced by Assembly Member Blakeslee

January 22, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1—Relative to natural catastrophes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 1, as amended, Blakeslee. ~~Natural catastrophes: planning.~~
Earthquake damage: mitigation planning.

~~This measure would respectfully memorialize state the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation creating a comprehensive national catastrophe plan that includes a federal insurance backstop to improve the availability of reasonably priced property and casualty insurance policies covering losses related to natural catastrophes Legislature's support of the expedient development of mitigation efforts across the state by federal and local governmental entities, in cooperation with private enterprises and individuals, to protect against earthquake damage.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

1 *WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey has predicted*
2 *an earthquake with a magnitude 6.7 or greater in California within*
3 *the next 30 years; and*

4 *WHEREAS, The Hayward Fault near San Francisco is predicted*
5 *to certainly rupture again with greater force than the 1989 Loma*
6 *Prieta earthquake; and*

7 *WHEREAS, On October 15, 2009, the Great California*
8 *ShakeOut organized a drill where millions of people in homes,*

1 schools, businesses, government offices, and public places all over
2 southern California practiced what to do during an earthquake,
3 and called the event the Great California ShakeOut Drill; and

4 WHEREAS, Results of the Great California ShakeOut Drill
5 showed that a large earthquake in southern California would cost
6 approximately \$213 billion, including business interruption, and
7 could result in the death of approximately 1,800 people; and

8 WHEREAS, The last major earthquake on the Hayward Fault
9 was 140 years ago, and the last five earthquakes on this fault have
10 come, on average, 140 years apart; and

11 WHEREAS, Recent reports have confirmed that mitigation
12 techniques can greatly improve the structural stability of a building
13 and dramatically improve the safety of its occupants; and

14 WHEREAS, Mitigation against earthquake damage is
15 dramatically more cost-effective than repairing buildings after a
16 great earthquake, and economic loss from halted business and
17 interrupted services can also be avoided by retrofitting buildings
18 before an earthquake strikes; and

19 WHEREAS, The astronomical costs of repair that occur after
20 a devastating national disaster often fall on the government; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE OF
23 THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, JOINTLY, That the Legislature
24 of California strongly supports the expedient development of
25 mitigation efforts across California by federal and local
26 governmental entities, in cooperation with private enterprises and
27 individuals, to protect against earthquake damage that could result
28 in a loss of life and a dramatic lowering of California's economic
29 status and vibrancy; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
31 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

32 WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey has predicted
33 a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake in California within the next
34 30 years; and

35 WHEREAS, It is predicted with certainty that the Hayward
36 Fault, near San Francisco, will rupture again with greater force
37 than the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake; and

38 WHEREAS, It is an appropriate role for the federal government
39 to make it possible for more Americans to take responsibility for

1 protecting their families' property and assets from natural disasters;
2 and

3 ~~WHEREAS, The economic consequences of a state-specific~~
4 ~~natural catastrophe, including taxpayer funded relief, recovery,~~
5 ~~and rebuilding programs and higher insurance costs, extend to the~~
6 ~~citizens of all states; and~~

7 ~~WHEREAS, Few California homeowners buy earthquake~~
8 ~~insurance because the premium and deductible are prohibitively~~
9 ~~expensive; and~~

10 ~~WHEREAS, A federal backstop would help qualified states~~
11 ~~purchase federal reinsurance at significantly lower cost; and~~

12 ~~WHEREAS, It is an appropriate role for the federal government~~
13 ~~to save lives and protect property by strengthening natural~~
14 ~~catastrophe prevention, mitigation, and response programs; now,~~
15 ~~therefore, be it~~

16 ~~Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of~~
17 ~~California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes~~
18 ~~the Congress and the President of the United States to enact~~
19 ~~legislation creating a comprehensive, integrated national~~
20 ~~catastrophe plan that includes the participation of states to better~~
21 ~~prepare and protect American homeowners from inevitable,~~
22 ~~large-scale natural catastrophes; and be it further~~

23 ~~Resolved, That the legislation should include a federal backstop~~
24 ~~supported by actuarially sound premiums to improve the~~
25 ~~availability of reasonably priced property and casualty insurance~~
26 ~~from private markets to homeowners throughout the nation; and~~
27 ~~be it further~~

28 ~~Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies~~
29 ~~of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United~~
30 ~~States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the~~
31 ~~Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and~~
32 ~~Representative from California in the Congress of the United~~
33 ~~States.~~