

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 9

Introduced by Assembly Members Cook and Ma

March 14, 2011

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 9—Relative to a public alert and warning system.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 9, as introduced, Cook. Public alert and warning system.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to expedite a solution to provide a public alert and warning system to alert and warn the American people in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to the public safety, health, and well-being of the American people.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest for the Congress of the
2 United States to enact legislation to establish and implement an
3 effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system
4 that will alert and warn the American people in situations of war,
5 terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public health,
6 safety, and well-being, taking into account the functions,
7 capabilities, and needs of all people, the private sector, and
8 governments, to ensure that universal communication is at all times
9 and in all places available to warn the American people of
10 impending danger; and

11 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest for Congress to
12 investigate and conduct hearings to inventory, evaluate, and assess
13 capabilities of federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local public alert

1 and warning resources in order to develop an integrated public
2 alert and warning system; and

3 WHEREAS, Alerting and warning protocols, standards,
4 terminology, and operating procedures of the public alert and
5 warning system should be designed without the need for
6 maintaining a database of personal information so that the privacy
7 of all Americans is protected; and

8 WHEREAS, An integrated public alert and warning system
9 should be designed to deliver secure and coordinated messages to
10 the American people through as many communication pathways
11 as practical, and should be developed using the latest technology
12 so warnings and timely alerts may be delivered to the entire
13 population when surface infrastructure does not exist or has been
14 compromised; and

15 WHEREAS, The public alert and warning system should be
16 designed so that the distribution and content of communications
17 may be adapted based on location, risk, or user preference; and

18 WHEREAS, The public alert and warning system should have
19 the capacity to alert and warn all Americans, including people who
20 have disabilities, who do not speak English, or who are in remote
21 areas of the country; and

22 WHEREAS, Cooperation with owners and operators of
23 communication facilities is necessary to maintain, protect, and
24 restore communications facilities and capabilities of the public
25 alert and warning system; and

26 WHEREAS, Direct access to training, annual tests, and exercises
27 for the public alert and warning system should be established and
28 provided to appropriate federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial
29 entities; and

30 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to establish public
31 education efforts so that federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local
32 governments, the private sector, and the American people know
33 how to access, use, and respond to information delivered through
34 the public alert and warning system; and

35 WHEREAS, Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial
36 governments, and media communication organizations should be
37 required to consult and coordinate with the private sector, including
38 emergency response providers and users, for the implementation
39 of a state-of-the-art public alert and warning system; now,
40 therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
2 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the
3 United States to expedite a solution to provide a public alert and
4 warning system to alert and warn the American people in situations
5 of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to the
6 health, safety, and well-being of the American people; and be it
7 further

8 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
10 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority
11 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority
12 Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to
13 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
14 of the United States.