

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 69

Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Block, Perea, and V. Manuel
Pérez)

June 9, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 69, as introduced, Hueso. Synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants.

This measure would request that law enforcement, schools, local elected officials, and parents educate youth about the risks associated with synthetic drugs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Synthetic cannabinoids commonly known as
2 “Spice” or “K2,” and synthetic stimulants commonly known as
3 “bath salts,” are growing in use and have become an increasingly
4 significant problem in California; and
5 WHEREAS, The initial appearance of these synthetic
6 cannabinoids in herbal incense products in the United States
7 occurred in November 2008 when United States Customs and
8 Border Protection first encountered products such as Spice; and
9 WHEREAS, Due to sophisticated marketing, the products that
10 contain these synthetic cannabinoids or stimulants are perceived
11 as “legal” alternatives to marijuana and cocaine despite the fact
12 that they are typically advertised as herbal incense, bath salts, or
13 plant food; and

1 WHEREAS, Synthetic cannabinoids are referred to as the new
2 marijuana and synthetic stimulants as the new cocaine, and are
3 gaining popularity at an alarming rate among high school and
4 college students and persons on probation and parole; and

5 WHEREAS, While having the same or stronger physiological
6 effects as high-potency marijuana, synthetic marijuana products
7 do not show a positive reading in a urinalysis test, which adds to
8 the desirability and increased growth among drug abusers and
9 increases the threat to public health and safety by making detection
10 difficult; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Association of Poison Control
12 Centers (AAPCC) reported receiving 14 calls related to synthetic
13 cannabinoids at United States poison centers in 2009, 2,874 calls
14 in 2010, and, in just the first four months of 2011, the AAPCC has
15 already received 2,052 calls; and

16 WHEREAS, The AAPCC also reported receiving 301 calls in
17 2010 on the synthetic stimulant “bath salts” and has received 1,381
18 calls in the first three months of this year; and

19 WHEREAS, The Drug Enforcement Agency adopted a
20 temporary federal policy on March 1, 2011, banning some synthetic
21 substances, which represent a recent phenomenon in the United
22 States designer drug market; and

23 WHEREAS, Preliminary indications are that these synthetic
24 cannabinoids, currently unregulated in California, are from three
25 to over 100 times more potent than THC, the active ingredient
26 found in marijuana; and

27 WHEREAS, At least 20 states, as well as the federal government
28 and military, have already included one or more of these synthetic
29 chemical compounds on schedules of controlled substances, but
30 none of these chemicals are currently listed on California’s
31 schedule of controlled substances; and

32 WHEREAS, Synthetic drugs have been attributed to at least
33 nine deaths in the United States since last year; and

34 WHEREAS, The Assembly of the State of California recognizes
35 the growing threat of synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants to the
36 health, safety, and welfare of our citizens before the problem
37 becomes epidemic in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature needs to convey that the
40 purpose of this resolution is to raise awareness of synthetic drugs.

- 1 Synthetic drugs pose a significant health risk and the Legislature
- 2 calls upon law enforcement, schools, local elected officials, and
- 3 parents to educate youth about the risks associated with synthetic
- 4 drugs; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 6 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.