

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 84

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

[Filed with Secretary of State September 6, 2011.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 69, Hueso. Synthetic cannabinoids and stimulants.

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

WHEREAS, Synthetic cannabinoids commonly known as “Spice” or “K2,” and synthetic stimulants commonly known as “bath salts,” are growing in use and have become an increasingly significant problem in California; and

WHEREAS, The initial appearance of these synthetic cannabinoids in herbal incense products in the United States occurred in November 2008 when United States Customs and Border Protection first encountered products such as Spice; and

WHEREAS, Due to sophisticated marketing, the products that contain these synthetic cannabinoids or stimulants are perceived as “legal” alternatives to marijuana and cocaine despite the fact that they are typically advertised as herbal incense, bath salts, or plant food; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature needs to convey that the purpose of this resolution is to raise awareness of synthetic drugs. Synthetic drugs pose a significant health risk and the Legislature calls upon law enforcement, first responders, schools, local elected officials, and parents to educate youth about the risks associated with synthetic drugs; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.