

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 150

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

May 1, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, as introduced, Block. Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness Week.

This measure would declare the week of June 4, 2012, to June 10, 2012, inclusive, as Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California is home to a myriad of disaster threats,
2 such as fires, floods, mudslides, earthquakes, and terrorism; and

3 WHEREAS, Nearly every county in California faces the
4 challenge of development encroaching on rural and wildland areas;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Some areas of the state must cope with multiple
7 risks, including a network of fault lines that can produce
8 earthquakes and tsunamis, heavy rains and coastal storms that
9 create floods and mudslides, and volcanic activity from Lassen
10 Peak and Mount Shasta; and

11 WHEREAS, An unprecedented increase in the number of
12 wildfires since 2003 have claimed numerous lives, millions of
13 square acres of property, and hundreds of homes; and

14 WHEREAS, Wildfires across the state have also destroyed
15 precious infrastructure and threaten our environment; and

1 WHEREAS, Californians face innumerable fire and emergency
2 threats within their own homes; and

3 WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency
4 reports that most Americans underestimate the risk of fire in their
5 homes, and that many either lack emergency response plans or fail
6 to practice them; and

7 WHEREAS, Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
8 are key to reducing fire deaths and injuries, and diminishes the
9 chances of dying in a fire by one-half; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
11 reports that between 2005 and 2009, almost two-thirds of all home
12 fire deaths in the United States resulted from fires in homes without
13 smoke alarms or working smoke alarms; and

14 WHEREAS, Smoke alarm failure is usually caused by missing,
15 disconnected, or dead batteries; and

16 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide (CO), often called the silent
17 killer, is an invisible, odorless, and colorless gas created by burning
18 fuels like gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and
19 methane; and

20 WHEREAS, Cooking or heating equipment that burns these
21 fuels are potential sources of CO in the home, while the vehicles
22 or generators that run in attached garages can also produce
23 dangerous levels of CO; and

24 WHEREAS, The NFPA reports that in 2005, fire departments
25 in the United States responded to an average of seven calls per
26 hour involving nonfire incidents where CO was detected; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States Fire Administration reports that
28 residential clothes dryers annually account for more than 15,000
29 structure fires, 15 deaths, 400 injuries, and \$100 million in property
30 damage, and many fire officials believe that these statistics are
31 drastically understated due to data reporting deficiencies; and

32 WHEREAS, There is little doubt that fire is as powerful as any
33 other force in the natural world and, as such, deserves our utmost
34 attention and commitment to educating the public on the critical
35 importance of fire and disaster preparedness, whether these
36 emergencies are natural or manmade, or occur inside or outside
37 the home; and

38 WHEREAS, The California Fire Foundation was formed in
39 1987 as a way to recognize the courage of firefighters and the
40 perseverance and sacrifice of fire victims; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, the Foundation's mandate includes an array
2 of public education and victim assistance projects, including
3 educating the public on fire safety, disaster preparedness, and the
4 toxic effects of fires; and

5 WHEREAS, The public education programs organized and
6 produced by the Foundation have yielded life-saving results; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
9 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
10 week of June 4, 2012, to June 10, 2012, inclusive, as California
11 Fire Safety Awareness and Disaster Preparedness Week, and
12 encourages all California firefighters and the citizens they are
13 sworn to protect to participate in local educational activities within
14 their respective communities throughout that week to help our
15 state better prepare for an emergency; and be it further

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