

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 6, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 150

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Beall, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Cannella, Corbett, Gaines, Lieu, Rubio, and Kehoe)

May 1, 2012

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, as amended, 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

16 WHEREAS, Californians face innumerable fire and emergency
17 threats within their own homes; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
23 are key to reducing fire deaths and injuries, and ~~diminishes~~
24 *diminish* the chances of dying in a fire by one-half; and

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

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

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

35 WHEREAS, Cooking or heating equipment that burns these
36 fuels are potential sources of CO in the home, while the vehicles
37 or generators that run in attached garages can also produce
38 dangerous levels of CO; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, There is little doubt that fire is as powerful as any
10 other force in the natural world and, as such, deserves our utmost
11 attention and commitment to educating the public on the critical
12 importance of fire and disaster preparedness, whether these
13 emergencies are natural or manmade, or occur inside or outside
14 the home; and

15 WHEREAS, The California Fire Foundation was formed in
16 1987 as a way to recognize the courage of firefighters and the
17 perseverance and sacrifice of fire victims; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, the Foundation's mandate includes an array
19 of public education and victim assistance projects, including
20 educating the public on fire safety, disaster preparedness, and the
21 toxic effects of fires; and

22 WHEREAS, The public education programs organized and
23 produced by the Foundation have yielded life-saving results; now,
24 therefore, be it

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

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