

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 71

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63—Relative to Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 10, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 63, Gaines. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of September 2012 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the State of California.

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that one in six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. Approximately 241,740 new cases of the disease in the United States are predicted for 2012, which would result in nearly 28,170 deaths; and

WHEREAS, In California, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in most racial and ethnic groups. African American men are at especially high risk for prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, In California, approximately 20,200 men are predicted to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2012, and, of this number, approximately 3,090 men are predicted to die of this disease; and

WHEREAS, California is home to approximately 621,340 Vietnam-era veterans, the largest population of Vietnam War-era veterans in the country; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, physicians at the UC Davis Cancer Center released results showing that Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange have greatly increased risks of prostate cancer and even greater risks of getting the most aggressive form of the disease, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that if a veteran served in Vietnam and has prostate cancer, it is presumed that the cancer is a result of that veteran's service; and

WHEREAS, While prostate cancer is a leading cause of cancer deaths in men, little is known about this disease and there are usually no symptoms in the early stages; and

WHEREAS, The survival rate approaches 100 percent when prostate cancer is diagnosed and treated early, but drops to 29 percent when the disease spreads to other parts of the body; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends that health care providers offer a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and a digital rectal examination (DRE) annually to men who have at least a 10-year life expectancy, beginning when the men are 50 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Men in high-risk groups, such as African American men or those with brothers or fathers who have had prostate cancer, should be offered a PSA and DRE beginning when they are 45 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Men who have multiple family members who were diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age should consult with their health care provider about prostate cancer screening beginning when they are 40 years of age; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature designates the month of September 2012 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the State of California and encourages public officials and citizens of California to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature joins communities across our nation to increase the awareness of the importance of early detection and treatment of prostate cancer; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.