

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 26, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 42

Introduced by Senator Fuller

(Principal coauthor: Senator Galgiani)

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Salas)

(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Huff, and Monning)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Grove, Hall, ~~and Patterson~~ *Patterson, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada*)

May 13, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 42—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 42, as amended, Fuller. Valley Fever Awareness Month.

This measure would declare August 2013 as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis), a progressive,
2 multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is a debilitating disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Valley Fever is caused by the inhalation of tiny
4 airborne fungi that live in the soil but are released into the air by
5 soil disturbance or wind; and

6 WHEREAS, Valley Fever attacks the respiratory system, causing
7 infections that can lead to symptoms that resemble a cold,
8 influenza, or pneumonia; and

9 WHEREAS, If left untreated or mistreated, infection can spread
10 from the lungs into the bloodstream, causing inflammation to the
11 skin, permanent damage to lung and bone tissue, and swelling of
12 the membrane surrounding the brain, leading to meningitis, which
13 can be devastating and even fatal; and

14 WHEREAS, Once serious symptoms of Valley Fever appear,
15 including pneumonia and labored breathing, prompt treatment with
16 often toxic antifungal drugs must be given, which is especially
17 disagreeable for patients who require the drugs to be injected
18 beneath the base of their skulls for meningitis and which can cause
19 side effects such as nausea, fever, and kidney damage; and

20 WHEREAS, Within California alone, Valley Fever is found in
21 portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San Joaquin Valley,
22 desert regions, and portions of southern California; and

23 WHEREAS, California does not have an official statewide
24 method of tracking the rate of Valley Fever infections; and

25 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, infection rates in California
26 and Arizona have risen 400 percent, from an estimated 31 cases
27 for every 100,000 people in 1999 to 157 cases for every 100,000
28 people in 2011; and

29 WHEREAS, In Kern County, the rate of infection of Valley
30 Fever more than tripled from 2009, for a total of 2,051 cases in
31 2010 and 2,734 cases in 2011; and

32 WHEREAS, San Joaquin County Public Health Services
33 recorded 27 cases of Valley Fever in 2009, 46 cases in 2010, and
34 123 cases in 2011; and

35 WHEREAS, Valley Fever infection rates rose twelvefold
36 nationwide from 1995 to 2009, according to the federal Centers
37 for Disease Control and Prevention, and researchers estimate that
38 the fungus infects more than 150,000 people each year who either
39 suffer serious ailments without knowing the cause of their illness
40 or escape detection of the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Misdiagnosis of Valley Fever is so pervasive that
2 experts say that some people suffer and even die from Valley Fever
3 without knowing they ever had the disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Central Valley prison inmates are being infected
5 by Valley Fever at epidemic rates, contributing significantly to the
6 state's prison health care costs; and

7 WHEREAS, The rapid spread of Valley Fever at state prisons
8 in the Central Valley has resulted in multiple prison inmate deaths
9 and prompted calls to close certain affected prisons, further
10 exacerbating efforts to comply with federal orders to reduce prison
11 overcrowding; and

12 WHEREAS, Valley Fever kills between 100 to 200 more
13 Americans every year than tuberculosis; and

14 WHEREAS, Valley Fever most seriously affects the young, the
15 elderly, those with lowered immune systems, and those of African
16 American and Filipino descent; and

17 WHEREAS, Valley Fever is a disease that has been studied for
18 the past 100 years but still remains impossible to control and
19 difficult to treat; and

20 WHEREAS, There is, to date, no known cure for Valley Fever,
21 but researchers are closer than ever to finding a much-needed
22 vaccine against this devastating disease; and

23 WHEREAS, The research effort to find a vaccine for Valley
24 Fever and a funding partnership including the State of California
25 were approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Wilson
26 in 1997; now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
28 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim
29 August 2013 as Valley Fever Awareness Month; and be it further

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