

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 5**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Dahle**

(Principal coauthor: Senator Vidak)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Dodd, and Waldron)**

(Coauthors: Senators Gaines and Nielsen)

February 10, 2015

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 5, as introduced, Dahle. Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000: extension.

This measure would urge the 114th Congress to reauthorize and fund the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Fiscal committee: no.

1       WHEREAS, From 1908 to 2000, counties in the United States  
2 received 25 percent of the revenues generated on national forest  
3 lands in lieu of lost tax revenues that could have been generated  
4 had these lands remained in private hands; and  
5       WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the volume and value of timber  
6 harvested on national forest lands was dramatically reduced, which  
7 led Congress to enact the federal Secure Rural Schools and  
8 Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 7101  
9 et seq.), which provided a six-year guarantee payment option that  
10 was independent of the revenue generated on the national forest  
11 lands; and

1 WHEREAS, The federal Secure Rural Schools and Community  
2 Self-Determination Act of 2000, which has been extended several  
3 times, most recently by the federal Helium Stewardship Act of  
4 2013 (Public Law 113-40), expired on September 30, 2013, which  
5 created a lapse in funding to critical programs in schools and  
6 counties across the United States, including California, in the  
7 coming years; and

8 WHEREAS, Rural schools are dependent on federal  
9 revenue-sharing programs, including federal forest payments, for  
10 maintaining vital educational services and programs, and to ensure  
11 a quality education for all students; and

12 WHEREAS, Many of California's county public works programs  
13 will be crippled without stable, predictable, long-term funding  
14 from the federal act, causing the local road network to suffer  
15 long-term degradation and putting communities at risk for public  
16 safety emergencies due to cuts in staffing and operational activities;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, A number of efforts have been made in the 113th  
19 Congress and are continuing to be made in both the United States  
20 House of Representatives and the United States Senate to  
21 reauthorize the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community  
22 Self-Determination Act of 2000; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
24 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
25 respectfully urges the 114th Congress to reauthorize and fund the  
26 federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination  
27 Act of 2000 to provide a long-term, stable source of funding for  
28 schools and counties to maintain vital programs so as to avoid any  
29 interruption in county services and school operations; and be it  
30 further

31 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
32 of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
33 to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
34 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
35 States.

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