

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 49

Introduced by Senator Berryhill

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, *Bates*, Gaines, *Hall*, Huff, Jackson, Monning, *Moorlach*, Morrell, and Pavley)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Bigelow, *Brough*, *Chávez*, Dahle, *Gallagher*, Lopez, and Olsen)

April 29, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 49—Relative to Wildfire Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 49, as amended, Berryhill. Wildfire Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of May 3, 2015, to May 9, 2015, inclusive, as Wildfire Awareness Week to raise public awareness and encourage all residents of California to be prepared for wildfires.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Wildfires significantly impact California's
2 environmental, economic, and social well-being; and

3 WHEREAS, California is a dynamic place to live, work, and
4 recreate, with a diverse ecological environment; and

5 WHEREAS, The current drought and significantly increased
6 drought-induced mortality of trees and other natural vegetation
7 throughout the state create ideal conditions for severe wildfire risk;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 95 percent of wildfires in California
10 are ~~human-caused~~ *human caused* and, therefore, are preventable;
11 and

1 WHEREAS, The history of California wildfires has seen
2 unparalleled devastation, with wildfires comparable to the world's
3 most destructive fires in the past 150 years, and Californians should
4 not forget the lessons learned and impact from previous wildfires,
5 including, the 1977 Spanish Ranch ~~fire~~ *Fire* near Santa Maria, the
6 1970 Laguna ~~fire~~ *Fire* near San Diego, the 2003 Cedar ~~fire~~ *Fire*
7 east of San Diego, the 2007 Southern California fires, and the 2013
8 Rim Fire in the Stanislaus National Forest that became the third
9 largest wildfire in California's history; and

10 WHEREAS, Wildfire suppression costs only represent a small
11 portion of the overall economic impacts and do not reflect the total
12 cost of large and damaging fires; and

13 WHEREAS, Residents must be encouraged to move from the
14 expectation of being protected from a wildfire to the understanding
15 that they must be prepared to survive a wildfire; and

16 WHEREAS, To do so, residents of this state will need to acquire
17 the knowledge and skills to prepare their homes to survive a
18 wildfire and to take action before the wildfire occurs; and

19 WHEREAS, The educational tools for preventing wildfires and
20 protecting against them when they occur already exist; and

21 WHEREAS, It is essential that we reach out to our communities
22 and individual homeowners with this information, because, armed
23 with knowledge, residents of this state can learn to live safely in
24 a wildfire environment; and

25 WHEREAS, "Wildfire Awareness Week" is a valuable
26 opportunity for California's fire agencies and communities to
27 reduce the risk of wildfires and increase public safety and
28 awareness through education on fire safety, preparation, and
29 prevention; and

30 WHEREAS, Residents who implement appropriate prefire
31 activities improve the survivability of their homes during a wildfire;
32 now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week
35 of May 3, 2015, to May 9, 2015, inclusive, as Wildfire Awareness
36 Week to raise public awareness and encourage all residents of
37 California to be prepared for wildfires.

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

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