

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 71

Introduced by Senator Gaines

(~~Coauthor: Senator~~ *Coauthors: Senators Bates, Glazer, and Vidak*)

June 1, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to Fireworks Safety Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 71, as amended, Gaines. Fireworks Safety Month.

This measure would designate June 21, 2015, through July 21, 2015, as Fireworks Safety Month and would encourage the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies to educate members of the public about the risks of improperly using fireworks, including fireworks that have been approved as safe and sane.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Many Californians and visitors to the state will be
2 celebrating our nation's independence on July 4th with fireworks;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, Fireworks were involved in an estimated 11,400
5 injuries treated in hospital emergency departments throughout the
6 United States during 2013, with roughly 65 percent of those injuries
7 being treated during the period between June 21 and July 21,
8 inclusive; and
9 WHEREAS, Serious misuse of fireworks devices, as well as
10 the use of illegal explosives, ~~account~~ *accounts* for a large
11 proportion of these injuries; and

1 WHEREAS, Children younger than 15 years of age accounted
2 for approximately 40 percent of the injuries, with roughly 2,300
3 of those injuries being caused by sparklers, 300 by bottle rockets,
4 and 500 by firecrackers; and

5 WHEREAS, The parts of the body most often injured were
6 hands, fingers, head, face, eyes, and legs, with burns representing
7 the most common injury to all parts of the body, except that
8 lacerations and foreign bodies occurred more frequently in the
9 eyes; and

10 WHEREAS, Bodily injury is not the only damage that can occur
11 from improper use of fireworks and the Department of ~~Forestry,~~
12 *Forestry* and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has stated that improper
13 use of fireworks during California's severe drought has caused
14 wildfires; and

15 WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has already responded to 1,122 wildfires
16 between January 2015 and May 2015, inclusive, that have burned
17 4,206 acres, nearly double the number of fires and acreage
18 destroyed by this time in 2013, and therefore CAL FIRE is urging
19 the public to enjoy only professional fireworks displays; and

20 WHEREAS, Since it can take hundreds of thousands of gallons
21 of water to control a large wildfire, avoiding home use of fireworks
22 is important not only for safety and wildfire prevention, but also
23 to save precious water resources during this critical period of
24 drought; and

25 WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has reminded those who choose to use
26 fireworks to celebrate to make sure fireworks are allowed in the
27 area of use and that ~~they~~ *users* follow all safety precautions,
28 because individuals not following these requirements can be held
29 financially responsible for any fire caused by improper fireworks
30 activities; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
32 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature ~~designate,~~ *designates* June
33 21, 2015, to July 21, 2015, inclusive, as Fireworks Safety Month;
34 ~~and,~~ *and* be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the Department of
36 Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies to
37 educate members of the public about the risks of improperly using
38 fireworks, including fireworks that have been approved as safe
39 and sane; ~~and,~~ *and* be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages these agencies to
2 advise members of the public about the high fines for use or sale
3 of illegal fireworks in addition to the risk of paying for wildfire
4 damage caused by improper or illegal use of fireworks; ~~and~~, *and*
5 be it further

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

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