

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 15, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 71

**Introduced by Senator Gaines
(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, accounts for a large proportion of
11 these injuries; and

1 WHEREAS, Children younger than 15 years of age accounted
2 for approximately ~~40~~ 26 percent of the ~~injuries~~, *injuries in the*
3 *United States*, with roughly ~~2,300~~ 1,100 of those reported injuries
4 being caused by sparklers, 300 by bottle rockets, and ~~500~~ 800 by
5 firecrackers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages the Department of
37 Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies to
38 educate members of the public about the risks of improperly using
39 fireworks, including fireworks that have been approved as safe
40 and sane; 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 be it
5 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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