

**Introduced by Senator Wieckowski**

March 28, 2016

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 121, as introduced, Wieckowski. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of April 17, 2016, to April 23, 2016, inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1     WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that  
2 can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and  
3 death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and  
4     WHEREAS, In 2015, West Nile virus resulted in 45 human  
5 deaths in California, triple the number from 2013, and 737  
6 individual cases in 31 counties; and  
7     WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,  
8 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with  
9 best management practices on public and private lands, are the  
10 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other  
11 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and  
12     WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not  
13 limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,  
14 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and  
15 a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

1 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors  
2 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private  
3 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,  
4 reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the  
5 environment; and

6 WHEREAS, As a result of the threat mosquitos posed to  
7 California’s economic development and the health of its citizens,  
8 the Legislature enacted the Mosquito Abatement Districts Act,  
9 just over a century ago, in 1915; and

10 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based  
11 on scientific research has made great advances in safely reducing  
12 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases,  
15 such as plague, Lyme disease, flea-borne typhus, and encephalitis,  
16 new and emerging vector-borne diseases, such as hantavirus and  
17 babesiosis, and travel-associated mosquito-borne disease threats,  
18 such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika, can cause illness and  
19 sometimes death in California; and

20 WHEREAS, Two invasive mosquito species in California, *Aedes*  
21 *albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito, which was detected in  
22 southern California in 2011, and *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever  
23 mosquito, which was detected in central and northern California  
24 in 2013, and in southern California in 2014, are posing new public  
25 health threats due to their capability to transmit potentially deadly  
26 or debilitating diseases, such as dengue, yellow fever, and  
27 chikungunya, diseases that are not currently transmitted in  
28 California, as well as other encephalitis-causing viruses; and

29 WHEREAS, These invasive species of mosquitos are responsible  
30 for transmitting the Zika virus, an infectious disease that has seen  
31 growth in Latin America over the past several months. Public  
32 health officials have recommended that pregnant women, in any  
33 trimester, avoid traveling to areas where Zika virus transmission  
34 is ongoing; and

35 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout  
36 the State of California work closely with the United States  
37 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of  
38 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and  
39 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-  
40 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

1 WHEREAS, Best management practices, emphasizing  
2 nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito  
3 control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new  
4 development and on state and private lands; and

5 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains  
6 information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both  
7 [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) and [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov), which the public is  
8 encouraged to review; and

9 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits  
10 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector  
11 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the  
12 state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding  
13 sites on public and private property; and

14 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to  
15 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government  
16 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about  
17 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology  
18 and control; and

19 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production  
20 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and  
21 public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of  
22 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and  
23 other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of  
24 mosquito- and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be  
25 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the  
26 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide  
29 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies  
30 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing  
31 controls; and

32 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control  
33 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat  
34 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the  
35 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working  
36 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight  
37 the educational programs currently available; and

38 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of  
39 California has designated the week of April 17, 2016, to April 23,

1 2016, inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector  
2 Control Awareness Week in California; now, therefore, be it  
3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week  
5 of April 17, 2016, to April 23, 2016, inclusive, as West Nile Virus  
6 and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week in California;  
7 and be it further  
8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of  
9 this resolution to the Governor, the State Public Health Officer,  
10 and the author for appropriate distribution.