

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 121

Introduced by Senator Wieckowski

March 28, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 121, as amended, 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~~ 53 human
5 deaths in California, *more than* triple the number from 2013, and
6 ~~737~~ 783 individual cases in ~~31~~ 41 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,

1 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and
2 a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
38 the State of California work closely with the United States
39 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
40 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and

1 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-
2 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains
8 information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both
9 www.cdph.ca.gov and www.westnile.ca.gov, which the public is
10 encouraged to review; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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