

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal
(Principal coauthor: Senator Migden)
(Coauthors: Senators Corbett and Kuehl)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dymally, Laird, Lieu, Maze, Mullin,
and Portantino)

July 9, 2007

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 61—Relative to Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 61, as introduced, Lowenthal. Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week.

This measure would declare and recognize the 2nd week of November as Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and urges the State Fire Marshal, local fire departments, public schools, and all other interested persons or organizations to initiate awareness activities during that week to alert the general public to the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and ways to reduce the risk factors in their homes.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is produced by furnaces,
2 common household appliances, vehicles, generators, fireplaces,
3 and other systems that are powered by the burning of fuel that
4 includes, but is not limited to, natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil,
5 and wood; and

6 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and
7 tasteless poison gas that can be fatal when inhaled, and it is known
8 as “the silent killer” because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted;
9 and

1 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental
2 poisoning deaths in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The Journal of the American Medical Association
4 has determined that carbon monoxide claims more than 2,000 lives
5 each year; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Association of Poison Control
7 Centers has determined that there are 40,000 emergency room
8 visits from suspected carbon monoxide poisoning, and 20,000
9 health related injuries each year; and

10 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic has determined that 51 percent
11 of all carbon monoxide poisoning cases reported involve children
12 six years of age and under; and

13 WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission has
14 determined that older adults more frequently have preexisting
15 health conditions that affect the heart, lungs, and circulatory
16 system, and the presence of one or more of these conditions lowers
17 a victim's tolerance and increases the risk of a fatal carbon
18 monoxide exposure; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2001, 25 percent of the carbon monoxide
20 poisoning deaths from home-related products were adults 65 years
21 of age and older; and

22 WHEREAS, A January 2006 article in the Journal of the
23 American Medical Association showed that, for individuals who
24 had been involved in carbon monoxide poisoning and survived,
25 there was a three-fold increase in coronary artery disease seven
26 years later when compared to patients who were not poisoned; and

27 WHEREAS, The Carbon Monoxide Health and Safety
28 Association has determined that the combined medical cost of
29 carbon monoxide accidents, lost productivity, and lost wages
30 amounts to \$8.8 billion per year; and

31 WHEREAS, The State Air Resources Board has determined
32 that, on average, between 30 and 40 avoidable deaths occur in
33 California each year due to unintentional carbon monoxide
34 poisoning, as well as between 175 and 700 avoidable emergency
35 room visits and hospitalizations, and between hundreds and
36 thousands of avoidable illnesses; and

37 WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon
38 monoxide poisoning are critical to protecting residents of California
39 from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the home;
40 and

1 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms have been determined
2 to be the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide and there
3 is a dramatic correlation between carbon monoxide alarm
4 ordinances in cities and lower death rates from carbon monoxide;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby recognizes and
8 declares the second week of November as Carbon Monoxide
9 Awareness Week and urges the State Fire Marshal, local fire
10 departments, public schools, and all other interested persons or
11 organizations to initiate awareness activities during that week to
12 alert the general public to the dangers of carbon monoxide
13 poisoning and ways to reduce the risk factors in their homes; and
14 be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
16 this resolution to the State Fire Marshal and to the author for
17 appropriate distribution.