

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 135

Introduced by Assembly Member Smyth

February 19, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 135—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 135, as introduced, Smyth. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 26 through April 30, 2010, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

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 2009, West Nile virus resulted in four deaths in
5 California and 105 individuals from 19 counties tested positive
6 for the virus; and
7 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the
8 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West Nile virus
9 will again pose a grave public health threat in California in 2010;
10 and
11 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,
12 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs are the best
13 ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases
14 borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

1 WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not
2 limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,
3 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, death, and a
4 public nuisance in California and around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors
6 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private
7 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,
8 and reduce livestock productivity; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases
13 such as plague, Lyme disease, and encephalitis, and new and
14 emerging vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus, arenavirus,
15 babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes death
16 every year in California; and

17 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
18 the State of California work closely with the United States
19 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
20 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and
21 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-
22 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

23 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits
24 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
25 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the
26 public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding sites on private
27 property; and

28 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
29 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government
30 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about
31 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
32 and control; and

33 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
34 of mosquitoes and other vectors on private, commercial, and public
35 lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of mosquitoes
36 and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and other disease
37 transmission is high, detection of human cases of mosquito- and
38 vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be misdiagnosed for lack
39 of appropriate laboratory testing, and the formation of mosquito
40 or vector control agencies where needed; and

1 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide
2 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies
3 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing
4 controls; and

5 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
6 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat
7 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the
8 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working
9 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight
10 the educational programs currently available; and

11 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of
12 California has designated the week of April 26 through April 30,
13 2010, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
14 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the
17 week of April 26 through April 30, 2010, be designated as West
18 Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week;
19 and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the transmit a copy of this
21 resolution to the Governor, State Public Health Officer, and the
22 author for appropriate distribution.