

Introduced by Senator Kehoe

March 9, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21—Relative to the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 21, as introduced, Kehoe. The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

This measure continues in existence the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, renames it as the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, comprised of 7 Members of the Senate and 7 Members of the Assembly, as specified, and authorizes the joint committee to act until November 30, 2010, and to address California's emergency management issues. This measure also authorizes the Senate Committee on Rules to make moneys available from the Senate Operating Fund, as it deems necessary, to pay the expenses of the joint committee.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California is the site of some of the most
2 extraordinary natural disasters in North America, including fires,
3 earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudslides, insect infestations, and
4 drought; and

5 WHEREAS, California is the nation's most populous state and
6 home to many of the nation's most critical military installations,
7 industrial facilities, ports, academic institutions, and tourist
8 destinations, and as such California is especially vulnerable to
9 potential acts of terrorism; and

1 WHEREAS, The failed governmental response to Hurricane
2 Katrina in 2005 indicates an immediate need to continue to assess
3 and improve upon California’s emergency preparedness and
4 response plans, especially in the following areas: the specific roles
5 of local, state, and federal agencies; evacuation planning;
6 interoperable communication systems; emergency warning
7 protocols; and private sector preparedness; and

8 WHEREAS, The ongoing threat of avian and pandemic flu could
9 also present unprecedented challenges to the state’s public health
10 system and thus place at risk the state’s residents and our economy;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, On November 2, 2003, Governor Gray Davis and
13 Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger established a Blue Ribbon
14 Fire Commission representing federal, state, and local agencies,
15 the firefighting community, and certain communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission was established
17 to conduct a review of the efforts to fight the October 2003 fires
18 and present recommendations to make California less vulnerable
19 to disasters of such enormity in the future; and

20 WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, in its report
21 to the Governor, made numerous recommendations and prioritized
22 their importance, including the establishment of a permanent Joint
23 Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland
24 Security; and

25 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
26 Services and Homeland Security has been in continuous existence
27 since it was first established by Resolution Chapter 144 of the
28 Statutes of 2004, and subsequently reauthorized by Resolution
29 Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 2005 and Resolution Chapter 152
30 of the Statutes of 2006; and

31 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
32 Services and Homeland Security has provided essential oversight
33 of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and the
34 Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and conducted numerous
35 hearings on the subject of emergency preparedness and homeland
36 security issues; and

37 WHEREAS, The members of the Joint Legislative Committee
38 on Emergency Services and Homeland Security and the Legislature
39 recognize that the work of the joint committee needs to continue;
40 now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved, by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on
3 Emergency Services and Homeland Security is continued in
4 existence from the 2007–08 Regular Session and shall hereafter
5 be referred to as the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
6 Management in keeping with the merger of the Governor’s Office
7 of Emergency Services and the Governor’s Office of Homeland
8 Security into one agency known as the California Emergency
9 Management Agency, authorized pursuant to Assembly Bill 38
10 (Chapter 372, Statutes of 2008); and be it further

11 *Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
12 Management is authorized to act until November 30, 2010, when
13 its existence shall terminate; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
15 Management shall consist of 14 members, and shall include seven
16 Members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on
17 Rules, four from the political party having the largest number of
18 members in the Senate and three from the political party having
19 the second largest number of members, and seven Members of the
20 Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, four from
21 the political party having the largest number of members in the
22 Assembly and three from the political party having the second
23 largest number of members; and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
25 Management shall be under the direction of a chairperson and vice
26 chairperson that shall alternate between the Senate and the
27 Assembly from session to session; and be it further

28 *Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
29 Management may provide a public forum for discussion of
30 California’s emergency management issues related to natural or
31 human-caused threats to California; and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That, in order to assist the Joint Legislative Committee
33 on Emergency Management in carrying out its duties, the joint
34 committee may form technical advisory committees, including
35 representatives from the public safety and emergency services
36 disciplines, to help evaluate federal, state, and local strategies,
37 provide technical assistance on an ongoing basis, and take active
38 roles in supporting the passage of any necessary legislation; and
39 be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
2 Management may work in cooperation with the Governor and the
3 standing committees and subcommittees of the Legislature to
4 address the level of support necessary for public safety and related
5 safety agencies to implement essential emergency management
6 services and policies; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
8 Management may periodically report its progress and make
9 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature; and be it
10 further

11 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency
12 Management and its members shall have and exercise all of the
13 rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees
14 and their members by the Joint Rules of the Assembly and Senate
15 as they are adopted and amended from time to time, which
16 provisions are incorporated herein and made applicable to this
17 joint committee and its members; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Senate Committee on Rules may make
19 moneys available from the Senate Operating Fund, as it deems
20 necessary, to pay expenses of the Joint Legislative Committee on
21 Emergency Management and its members, and that any expenditure
22 of moneys shall be made in compliance with policies set forth by
23 the Senate Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the approval
24 of the Senate Committee on Rules; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.