
Introduced by Senator Negrete McLeod

September 10, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60—Relative to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 60, as introduced, Negrete McLeod. Water utility and chemical facilities: Inherently Safer Technology (IST).

This measure urges the state, county, and local governments, the owners and operators of water utility facilities, and the chemical companies that supply these utilities, to mitigate the potential harm involved in the release of hazardous substances by substituting Inherently Safer Technology (IST).

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, There has been growing concern over the security
2 of our nation's chemical and water utility facilities which
3 traditionally use and produce Toxic Inhalation Hazard (TIH)
4 chemicals, or TIH chemical derivatives; and

5 WHEREAS, The vulnerabilities of chemical-related industries
6 are dramatically increased given that the majority of TIH
7 chemicals, such as chlorine, are generally shipped to and from
8 certain water utility facilities, and chemical facilities that supply
9 these water utility facilities, in unprotected, conspicuously marked
10 railcars; and

11 WHEREAS, Finding alternative measures to produce and use
12 needed goods should be a priority of water utilities and the
13 chemical facilities that use TIH chemicals, or products derived
14 from TIH chemicals, and protecting our communities by removing

1 the threat of TIH chemicals being released is of ultimate
2 importance; and

3 WHEREAS, Inherently Safer Technology (IST) differs from
4 the traditional chemical processing approach because the hazard
5 is eliminated or reduced by changing the process rather than by
6 adding layers of safety protection; and

7 WHEREAS, IST is accomplished through four basic strategies:
8 substituting highly hazardous substances with less hazardous ones;
9 minimizing levels of hazardous substances; moderating hazards
10 with the use of alternative forms of materials; and reducing
11 unnecessary systems' complexity to increase process
12 controllability; and

13 WHEREAS, To protect our communities from TIH chemicals
14 and the danger of a TIH accident, water utility facilities and the
15 chemical facilities that supply water utilities should implement
16 best procurement practices where major disinfection and treatment
17 materials that are derived from an IST production process are
18 considered first in the purchase selection process, insofar as they
19 are available and economically feasible; and

20 WHEREAS, State, county, and local governments in partnership
21 with the environmental health community have a unique
22 opportunity to play a key role in advocating for, and supporting
23 improvements in prevention of, and preparation for, unintended
24 release of hazardous substances; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the State of California, county and local
27 governments, the owners and operators of water utility facilities,
28 and the chemical companies that supply these utilities are hereby
29 urged to utilize Inherently Safer Technology (IST) measures where
30 necessary and appropriate in order to mitigate the potentially
31 catastrophic effects of unintended releases of hazardous substances;
32 and be it further

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

O