

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 38**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal**

March 14, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 38, as introduced, Bonnie Lowenthal. The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

This measure continues in existence 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, 2011, and to address California's emergency management issues.

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  
10 WHEREAS, The failed governmental response to Hurricane  
11 Katrina in 2005 indicates an immediate need to continue to assess  
12 and improve upon California's emergency preparedness and

1 response plans, especially in the following areas: the specific roles  
2 of local, state, and federal agencies; evacuation planning;  
3 interoperable communication systems; emergency warning  
4 protocols; and private sector preparedness; and

5 WHEREAS, The ongoing threat of avian and pandemic flu could  
6 also present unprecedented challenges to the state's public health  
7 system and thus place at risk the state's residents and our economy;  
8 and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
23 Services and Homeland Security has been in continuous existence  
24 since it was first established by Resolution Chapter 144 of the  
25 Statutes of 2004, and subsequently reauthorized by Resolution  
26 Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 2005, Resolution Chapter 152 of  
27 the Statutes of 2006, and reauthorized and renamed as the Joint  
28 Legislative Committee on Emergency Management by Resolution  
29 Chapter 36 of the Statutes of 2009; and

30 WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
31 Management has provided essential oversight of the California  
32 Emergency Management Agency and conducted numerous hearings  
33 on the subject of emergency preparedness and homeland security  
34 issues; and

35 WHEREAS, The members of the Joint Legislative Committee  
36 on Emergency Management and the Legislature recognize that the  
37 work of the joint committee needs to continue; now, therefore, be  
38 it

39 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
40 *thereof concurring, That the Joint Legislative Committee on*

1 Emergency Management is continued in existence from the  
2 2009–10 Regular Session; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
4 Management is authorized to act until November 30, 2012, when  
5 its existence shall terminate; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
7 Management shall consist of 14 members, and shall include seven  
8 Members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on  
9 Rules, four from the political party having the largest number of  
10 members in the Senate and three from the political party having  
11 the second largest number of members, and seven Members of the  
12 Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, four from  
13 the political party having the largest number of members in the  
14 Assembly and three from the political party having the second  
15 largest number of members; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
17 Management shall be under the direction of a chairperson and vice  
18 chairperson that shall alternate between the Senate and the  
19 Assembly from session to session; and be it further

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

24 *Resolved*, That, in order to assist the Joint Legislative Committee  
25 on Emergency Management in carrying out its duties, the joint  
26 committee may form technical advisory committees, including  
27 representatives from the public safety and emergency services  
28 disciplines, to help evaluate federal, state, and local strategies,  
29 provide technical assistance on an ongoing basis, and take active  
30 roles in supporting the passage of any necessary legislation; and  
31 be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
33 Management may work in cooperation with the Governor and the  
34 standing committees and subcommittees of the Legislature to  
35 address the level of support necessary for public safety and related  
36 safety agencies to implement essential emergency management  
37 services and policies; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
39 Management may periodically report its progress and make

1 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature; and be it  
2 further

3     *Resolved*, That the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency  
4 Management and its members shall have and exercise all of the  
5 rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees  
6 and their members by the Joint Rules of the Assembly and Senate  
7 as they are adopted and amended from time to time, which  
8 provisions are incorporated herein and made applicable to this  
9 joint committee and its members; and be it further

10     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
11 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.