

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 137**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins**

March 21, 2012

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 137—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 137, as introduced, Atkins. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 22 through April 28, 2012, 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 2011, West Nile virus resulted in eight human  
5 deaths in California and 155 individuals in 23 counties tested  
6 positive for the virus, of which 111 developed neuroinvasive  
7 disease; and

8 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the  
9 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West  
10 Nile virus will again pose a public health threat in California in  
11 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,  
13 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with  
14 best management practices on public and private lands, are the

1 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other  
2 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production  
37 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and  
38 public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of  
39 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and  
40 other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of

1 mosquito- and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be  
2 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the  
3 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide  
6 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies  
7 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing  
8 controls; and

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

15 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of  
16 California has designated the week of April 22 through April 28,  
17 2012, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control  
18 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the  
21 week of April 22 through April 28, 2012, be designated as West  
22 Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week;  
23 and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy  
25 of this resolution to the Governor, State Public Health Officer, and  
26 the author for appropriate distribution.