

**Introduced by Senator Rubio
(Coauthor: Senator Dutton)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bill Berryhill, Blumenfield, Huffman,
Monning, Portantino, Smyth, and Swanson)

February 14, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10—Relative to West Nile Virus
and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 10, as introduced, Rubio. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and
Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 24 through April 30, 2011, 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 2010, West Nile virus resulted in five human
5 deaths in California and 107 individuals in 17 counties tested
6 positive for the virus, of which 71 developed neuroinvasive disease;
7 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 2011; 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, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies, continue
5 to be a source of human suffering, illness, death, and public
6 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 on
12 scientific research has made great advances in reducing mosquito
13 and vector populations and the diseases they transmit; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the
2 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;
3 and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of
15 California has designated the week of April 24 through April 30,
16 2011, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
17 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the
20 week of April 24 through April 30, 2011, be designated as West
21 Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week;
22 and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of
24 this resolution to the Governor, State Public Health Officer, and
25 the author for appropriate distribution.