Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member Gipson

April 5, 2017

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to Mosquito Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 51, as introduced, Gipson. Mosquito Awareness Week. This measure would designate April 16, 2017, to April 22, 2017, inclusive, as Mosquito Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency recognizes that mosquito-borne diseases are currently among the world’s leading causes of illness and death; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization estimates that more than 300 million clinical cases each year are attributable to mosquito-borne illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work, reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, Two invasive mosquito species in California, Aedes albopictus, the Asian tiger mosquito, which was detected in southern California in 2011, and Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, which was detected in central and northern California in 2013 and southern California in 2014, are posing new public health threats.
health threats due to their capability to transmit potentially deadly or debilitating diseases, such as dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, and Zika, which can cause significant birth defects; and
WHEREAS, As of March 24, 2017, there have been 527 travel-associated cases of Zika detected in California, including 102 infections in pregnant women and five infants born with complications; and
WHEREAS, In addition to new, emerging diseases, California must remain vigilant in fighting known diseases. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and
WHEREAS, In 2016, West Nile virus resulted in 19 human deaths in California, and 442 individual cases in 30 counties, of which 329 developed neuroinvasive disease; and
WHEREAS, A 2010 study from the University of California, Los Angeles, found that the low socioeconomic status of a patient was an indicator of the likelihood of West Nile virus cases; and
WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control, disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with best management practices on public and private lands, are the best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and
WHEREAS, As a result of the threat mosquitoes posed to California’s economic development and the health of its citizens, the California Legislature enacted, over 100 years ago, California’s Mosquito Abatement Districts Act (Assembly Bill 1590 enacted in 1915); and
WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based on scientific research has made great advances in safely reducing mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit; and
WHEREAS, Established mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases such as plague, Lyme disease, flea-borne typhus, and encephalitis, and new and emerging vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus, arenavirus, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes death every year in California; and
WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout the State of California work closely with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and
the environment while protecting human health from
mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases and nuisance; and
WHEREAS, Best management practices, emphasizing
nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito
control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new
development and on state and private lands; and
WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains
information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both
www.cdphe.ca.gov and www.westnile.ca.gov, which the public is
encouraged to review; and
WHEREAS, The public’s awareness of the health benefits
associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the
state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding
sites on public and private property; and
WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government
agencies, in order to meet the public’s need for information about
West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
and control; and
WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and
public lands by responsible parties; avoidance of the bites of
mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and
other disease transmission is high; detection of human cases of
mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be
misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing; and the
formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed; and
WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide
adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies
or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing
controls; and
WHEREAS, Mosquito Awareness Week will increase the
public’s awareness of the threat of Zika and West Nile virus and
other diseases and the activities of the various mosquito and vector
research and control agencies working to minimize the health threat
within California, and will highlight the educational programs
currently available; and
WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California has designated the week of April 16 to April 22, 2017, inclusive, as Mosquito Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the week of April 16, 2017, to April 22, 2017 inclusive, as Mosquito Awareness Week; and be it further

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