

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 51**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gipson**

April 5, 2017

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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.

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

4 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization estimates that  
5 more than 300 million clinical cases each year are attributable to  
6 mosquito-borne illnesses; 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 reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the  
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Two invasive mosquito species in California, *Aedes*  
13 *albopictus*, the Asian tiger mosquito, which was detected in  
14 southern California in 2011, and *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever  
15 mosquito, which was detected in central and northern California  
16 in 2013 and southern California in 2014, are posing new public

1 health threats due to their capability to transmit potentially deadly  
2 or debilitating diseases, such as dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya,  
3 and Zika, which can cause significant birth defects; and

4 WHEREAS, As of March 24, 2017, there have been 527  
5 travel-associated cases of Zika detected in California, including  
6 102 infections in pregnant women and five infants born with  
7 complications; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to new, emerging diseases, California  
9 must remain vigilant in fighting known diseases. West Nile virus  
10 is a mosquito-borne disease that can result in debilitating cases of  
11 meningitis and encephalitis and death to humans, horses, avian  
12 species, and other wildlife; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2016, West Nile virus resulted in 19 human  
14 deaths in California, and 442 individual cases in 30 counties, of  
15 which 329 developed neuroinvasive disease; and

16 WHEREAS, A 2010 study from the University of California,  
17 Los Angeles, found that the low socioeconomic status of a patient  
18 was an indicator of the likelihood of West Nile virus cases; and

19 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,  
20 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with  
21 best management practices on public and private lands, are the  
22 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other  
23 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

24 WHEREAS, As a result of the threat mosquitoes posed to  
25 California's economic development and the health of its citizens,  
26 the California Legislature enacted, over 100 years ago, California's  
27 Mosquito Abatement Districts Act (Assembly Bill 1590 enacted  
28 in 1915); and

29 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based  
30 on scientific research has made great advances in safely reducing  
31 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Established mosquito-borne and vector-borne  
34 diseases such as plague, Lyme disease, flea-borne typhus, and  
35 encephalitis, and new and emerging vector-borne diseases such as  
36 hantavirus, arenavirus, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness  
37 and sometimes death every year in California; and

38 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout  
39 the State of California work closely with the United States  
40 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of

1 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and  
2 the environment while protecting human health from  
3 mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases and nuisance; and

4 WHEREAS, Best management practices, emphasizing  
5 nonchemical approaches, have been developed to guide mosquito  
6 control that can significantly reduce mosquito populations for new  
7 development and on state and private lands; and

8 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health maintains  
9 information on how to eliminate risks from vectors at both  
10 [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) and [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov), which the public is  
11 encouraged to review; and

12 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits  
13 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector  
14 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the  
15 state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding  
16 sites on public and private property; and

17 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to  
18 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government  
19 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about  
20 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology  
21 and control; and

22 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production  
23 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and  
24 public lands by responsible parties; avoidance of the bites of  
25 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and  
26 other disease transmission is high; detection of human cases of  
27 mosquito-borne and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be  
28 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing; and the  
29 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide  
32 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies  
33 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing  
34 controls; and

35 WHEREAS, Mosquito Awareness Week will increase the  
36 public's awareness of the threat of Zika and West Nile virus and  
37 other diseases and the activities of the various mosquito and vector  
38 research and control agencies working to minimize the health threat  
39 within California, and will highlight the educational programs  
40 currently available; and

1 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of  
2 California has designated the week of April 16 to April 22, 2017,  
3 inclusive, as Mosquito Awareness Week in the State of California;  
4 now, therefore, be it

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

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