

**Introduced by Senator Ortiz**

June 12, 2002

---

---

Senate Joint Resolution No. 49—Relative to human exposure to environmental chemicals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 49, as introduced, Ortiz. Human exposure to environmental chemicals.

This measure would memorialize the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the California Congressional delegation to seek the immediate release to the State Department of Health Services, and thereby to the California public, of the California-specific findings from the 1999 CDC, National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This measure would further memorialize the Director of CDC to release all California-specific findings from the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals that is due by December 2002, at the time the report is issued.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1999, the federal Centers for Disease Control
- 2 and Prevention (CDC) issued its first National Report on Human
- 3 Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, a new publication that
- 4 provides an ongoing assessment of the United States population's
- 5 exposure to environmental chemicals using biomonitoring; and
- 6 WHEREAS, "Environmental chemical" means a chemical
- 7 compound or chemical element present in air, water, soil, dust,
- 8 food, or other environmental media, and "biomonitoring" is the

1 assessment of human exposure to chemicals by measuring the  
2 chemicals or their metabolites in human specimens, such as blood  
3 or urine collected in the representative survey known as the  
4 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES);  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, It is important to know which chemicals are stored  
7 in the body because they act as a “reservoir” for continued  
8 exposure, with potentially serious health consequences, since a  
9 chemical that accumulates in the body over time can increase the  
10 potential for disease to occur; and

11 WHEREAS, The first edition of the National Report on Human  
12 Exposure to Environmental Chemicals presents levels of 27  
13 environmental chemicals measured in the United States  
14 population, including metals such as lead, mercury, uranium,  
15 cotinine, a marker of tobacco smoke exposure, and  
16 organophosphate pesticide metabolites, as well as phthalates; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to  
18 Environmental Chemicals determines the toxic substances to  
19 which Americans are exposed, as well as populations at risk,  
20 volumes of toxic substances used, and exposure trends; and

21 WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to  
22 Environmental Chemicals determines whether interventions to  
23 reduce exposure have been effective; and

24 WHEREAS, In collaboration with other federal agencies, the  
25 National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals  
26 provides additional information on interpreting lab  
27 measurements, including potential sources of exposure and human  
28 toxicity; and

29 WHEREAS, The next National Report on Human Exposure to  
30 Environmental Chemicals is due to be issued by December 2002  
31 and will analyze 75 chemicals; and

32 WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to  
33 Environmental Chemicals’ findings, organized by state and  
34 demographics, were to be made available in January of 2002; and

35 WHEREAS, California is a world leader in clean air and water  
36 standards, often improving upon federal standards; and

37 WHEREAS, The California survey within the National Report  
38 on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals constitutes a  
39 valid sample in its own right; and



1 WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to  
2 Environmental Chemicals' specific findings for the State of  
3 California will help the State Department of Health Services, the  
4 Legislature, and the Governor's office to address California's  
5 environmental health needs; and

6 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services is  
7 responsible for developing a plan to establish an environmental  
8 health tracking system by 2003, a project that requires collation of  
9 all available data sets; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Report on Human Exposure to  
11 Environmental Chemicals will inform the planning process as  
12 California builds capacity at state biomonitoring facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Services needs to  
14 make a budgetary commitment to additional biomonitoring to  
15 augment CDC findings; and

16 WHEREAS, The California public has the right to information  
17 regarding regional exposures to particular chemicals; and

18 WHEREAS, California findings on particular chemicals will  
19 serve as an information base for populations concerned about  
20 decreasing chemical risks in their communities; now, therefore, be  
21 it

22 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*  
23 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully  
24 memorializes the President of the United States, the United States  
25 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the  
26 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the California  
27 Congressional delegation to seek the immediate release to the  
28 State Department of Health Services, and thereby to the California  
29 public, of the California-specific findings from the 1999 CDC  
30 National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental  
31 Chemicals; and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
33 respectfully memorializes the Director of the Centers for Disease  
34 Control and Prevention to release to the State Department of  
35 Health Services all California-specific findings from the National  
36 Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals that is  
37 due to be issued by December 2002, at the time that report is  
38 issued; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
40 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United



- 1 States, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services,
- 2 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
- 3 and to each Senator and Representative from California in the
- 4 Congress of the United States.

O

