

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

December 4, 2006

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to low-income home energy assistance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as introduced, Dymally. Low-income home energy assistance.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress to increase the federal budget authorization for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to \$7,000,000,000 for the 2007–08 fiscal year, and appropriate that entire amount for distribution to the states.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The cost of energy for residential use has been
2 increasing dramatically in the United States and in California; and

3 WHEREAS, Low-income customers are particularly vulnerable
4 to increases in their energy bills for electricity, natural gas, and
5 propane, to both heat and cool their homes during extreme weather
6 conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, The primary federal program assisting low income
8 families with their energy costs is the Low Income Home Energy
9 Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides support both for
10 family utility bill payments and for increased energy efficiency
11 through home weatherization programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Expenditure for LIHEAP is authorized in the
13 amount of \$5.1 billion in the federal budget, of which only \$2.2

1 billion has been appropriated by the Congress for the 2007–08
2 fiscal year, which is not adequate to support the winter heating
3 needs of low-income families for this coming winter of 2006–07;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The federally appropriated amount is not sufficient
6 to begin to meet the urgent public health needs in warm-weather
7 states such as California and Arizona, which have experienced
8 lethal periods of extreme heat that have killed hundreds of
9 vulnerable members of our populations in the past year; and

10 WHEREAS, There exists an extensive network of existing
11 LIHEAP providers who are public and nonprofit agencies in the
12 United States, including California, that could efficiently disburse
13 the increased funds that would result from an increased
14 appropriation under LIHEAP for the public welfare; now, therefore,
15 be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
17 *California, jointly,* That California calls on the President and the
18 Congress to increase the federal budget authorization for the federal
19 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to seven billion
20 dollars (\$7,000,000,000) for the 2007–08 fiscal year, and
21 appropriate that entire amount for distribution to the states; and
22 be it further

23 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
24 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
25 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
26 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
27 United States.