

By: Senator J. English  
By: Representative Perry

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO BRING AWARENESS TO PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION  
PROGRAMS AND TO DECLARE THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER  
"RESILIENCY WEEK".

### **Subtitle**

TO BRING AWARENESS TO PRE-DISASTER  
MITIGATION PROGRAMS AND TO DECLARE THE  
FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER "RESILIENCY  
WEEK".

WHEREAS, hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters, and it is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive long-term mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency is designed to assist states and local communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program; and

WHEREAS, the federal Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 makes available new funding for states and communities to undertake pre-disaster mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, since 1908 natural disasters have cost the country more than \$1,000,000,000,000; and



WHEREAS, disasters affect local and state economies in lost payrolls, lost sales, income taxes, and increased disaster recovery times; and

WHEREAS, according to a study commissioned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and conducted by the National Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation provides the nation with \$6 in future benefits; and

WHEREAS, 25% of small businesses impacted by a natural disaster never reopen their doors; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the need for all Americans to prepare and plan for recovery, September is "National Preparedness Month" in the United States; and

WHEREAS, mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage; and

WHEREAS, effective pre-disaster mitigation reduces the demand for relief services on volunteer organizations, food banks, and homeless shelters that serve our communities by changing their operations to provide additional services to those affected by disaster; and

WHEREAS, it is our honorable and brave citizens who act as first responders and selflessly provide aid to safeguard other citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is important that communities develop long-term mitigation strategies to protect people and property from future disasters,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Senate declares the first week of September 2019 to be "Resiliency Week" to raise public awareness of the need for disaster mitigation strategies.