

**Introduced by Senator Hertzberg**

March 6, 2018

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to electricity.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 20, as introduced, Hertzberg. Electrical grid.

This measure would urge Congress and the President of the United States to work together to implement grid hardening measures and to help ensure our nation’s critical electrical infrastructure is protected from threats from electromagnetic pulses and physical attacks on the infrastructure.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Geomagnetic storms are natural phenomena
- 2 involving disturbances in the earth’s geomagnetic field caused by
- 3 solar activity; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Disruptions of electrical power caused by
- 5 geomagnetic storms, such as the collapse of the Hydro-Quebec
- 6 grid during the geomagnetic storm of 1989, have occurred many
- 7 times in the past; and
- 8 WHEREAS, The congressionally mandated Commission to
- 9 Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse
- 10 Attack found, in its report delivered in July of 2004, that an enemy
- 11 using a low-yield nuclear weapon detonated at a high altitude
- 12 above the United States could carry out an electromagnetic pulse
- 13 (EMP) attack against the United States, and that an EMP attack
- 14 has the potential to place our society at risk and to defeat the Armed
- 15 Forces of the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, Congress has commissioned numerous other  
2 hearings and reports on this issue, including the House of  
3 Representatives National Security Committee hearing on the EMP  
4 threat in 1997, the House of Representatives Military Research  
5 and Development Subcommittee hearing on the threat to the United  
6 States of potential EMP attacks in 1999, the creation of the  
7 Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from  
8 Electromagnetic Pulse Attack in 2001, the congressional  
9 commission report, “Critical National Infrastructures,” issued in  
10 2008, the United States Navy Naval Sea Systems Command EMP  
11 program in 2010, the North American Electric Reliability  
12 Corporation/federal Department of Energy report, “High-Impact,  
13 Low-Frequency Event Risk to the North American Bulk Power  
14 System,” issued in 2010, and the federal Department of Homeland  
15 Security testimony to the House of Representatives Committee on  
16 Homeland Security, “The Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Threat:  
17 Examining the Consequences,” in 2012; and

18 WHEREAS, In April 2013, an electrical substation in San Jose,  
19 California, was attacked with gunfire, leaving transformers disabled  
20 for nearly four weeks in an apparent attempt to disrupt power to  
21 Silicon Valley, raising questions about the vulnerability of power  
22 grids across the United States; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
24 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President and  
25 the Congress of the United States to work together to implement  
26 grid hardening measures and to help ensure our nation’s critical  
27 electrical infrastructure is protected from threats from  
28 electromagnetic pulses and physical attacks on the infrastructure;  
29 and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
31 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United  
32 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
33 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
34 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
35 States.