
Introduced by Senator Lieu

July 3, 2014

Senate Joint Resolution No. 30—Relative to air quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 30, as introduced, Lieu. Air quality: leaded aviation fuel.

This measure would support the Federal Aviation Administration’s initiative to certify safe unleaded aviation fuel for piston engine aircraft and would encourage the Federal Aviation Administration and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to prioritize the development and certification of unleaded aviation fuel in advance of 2018.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Aviation gasoline, or avgas as it is commonly
- 2 known, is utilized in general aviation aircraft that are powered by
- 3 internalcombustion reciprocating piston engines; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Avgas is a leaded fuel and its combustion results
- 5 in toxic air emissions of lead; and
- 6 WHEREAS, According to the United States Environmental
- 7 Protection Agency (EPA), the operation of general aviation aircraft
- 8 is the greatest source of lead emissions in California; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Lead that is emitted into the air can be inhaled or,
- 10 after it settles out of the air, ingested. Ingestion of lead that has
- 11 settled onto surfaces is the main way children are exposed to lead
- 12 originally released in the air; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Once in the body, lead is rapidly absorbed into the
- 14 bloodstream and results in a broad range of health effects. Public

1 health officials have concluded that there is no safe level of
2 exposure to lead; and

3 WHEREAS, Children are especially susceptible to the toxic
4 effects of lead. Exposure to lead can result in irreversible brain
5 damage and reduce a person’s cognitive function; and

6 WHEREAS, Exposure to low levels of lead early in life have
7 been linked to effects on a person’s intelligence quotient (IQ),
8 learning, memory, and behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, Lead has been successfully removed from many
10 consumer goods, including household paint and toys. Lead was
11 successfully phased out of automobile gas in California in 1992;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The EPA adopted a similar program that phased
14 lead out of automobile gasoline nationwide in 1996. However,
15 despite successes of lead removal programs, avgas remains a public
16 health threat due to its high lead content and toxic air emissions;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Lead content of avgas is regulated at the federal
19 level. All fuels for air transportation must be certified as safe by
20 the Federal Aviation Administration; and

21 WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
22 together with the EPA has developed a goal to identify a viable
23 unleaded avgas by 2018, which will ultimately eliminate lead
24 emissions from piston engine aircraft; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
26 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports the FAA’s
27 initiative to certify safe unleaded aviation fuel for piston engine
28 aircraft and encourages the FAA and the EPA to prioritize the
29 development and certification of unleaded aviation fuel in advance
30 of 2018; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
32 this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
33 Administration and to the Secretary of the United States
34 Environmental Protection Agency and to the author for appropriate
35 distribution.

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