

Introduced by Senator Lieu

March 13, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 7, as introduced, Lieu. Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013.

This measure would urge the Congress to enact and the President to sign the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Residents across the County of Los Angeles suffer
- 2 intrusive and disruptive low-flying helicopter traffic above their
- 3 neighborhoods; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles is home to a unique
- 5 and very large concentration of scenic, historic, entertainment, and
- 6 transportation venues, including movie studios, movie stars’ homes,
- 7 outdoor entertainment facilities, the coastline, Griffith Park, the
- 8 Hollywood sign, and many others, that generate extensive
- 9 helicopter tours engaged in sightseeing activity; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles has a high
- 11 concentration of media helicopters engaged in monitoring traffic
- 12 conditions, following car chases, and filming celebrity events,
- 13 which often involve hovering for extended periods of time; and
- 14 WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles is home to the world’s
- 15 leading civil helicopter manufacturer, which conducts extensive
- 16 helicopter flight testing in the region; and

1 WHEREAS, The unique terrain of canyons and valleys in the
2 County of Los Angeles often amplifies noise from helicopters in
3 otherwise quiet residential areas; and

4 WHEREAS, Helicopter noise in the County of Los Angeles
5 interrupts daily life for many residents by interfering with the
6 ability to hear conversations, the television, the radio, or the
7 telephone, and disrupting sleep cycles; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite multiple efforts from several community
9 and homeowner organizations in the County of Los Angeles to
10 address these disturbances, helicopter traffic in the County of Los
11 Angeles is not currently regulated by the Federal Aviation
12 Administration (FAA) or any other agency; and

13 WHEREAS, The FAA requires a specific minimum flying
14 altitude for fixed-wing aircraft, but it does not require a specific
15 minimum flying altitude for helicopters; and

16 WHEREAS, The absence of effective regulations for commercial
17 helicopter operations in the County of Los Angeles negatively
18 impacts the safety and quality of life of the county's residents; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of California is preempted by federal
20 law from adopting altitude, flight path, and other necessary
21 regulations to mitigate the impacts of commercial helicopters; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a lack of clarity as to the rulemaking
23 authority of the FAA; and

24 WHEREAS, Two companion measures in Congress, Senate Bill
25 No. 208 and House of Representatives Bill No. 456, known as the
26 Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013,
27 would require the Administrator of the FAA to prescribe
28 regulations for helicopter operations in the County of Los Angeles
29 that are needed to address residents' concerns over safety, noise,
30 and other associated impacts; and

31 WHEREAS, The following local government entities in the
32 County of Los Angeles have recently voted to support the proposed
33 federal legislation or its predecessor, the Los Angeles Residential
34 Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2012: the County of Los Angeles,
35 the City of Los Angeles, the City of Hermosa Beach, the City of
36 Lomita, the City of Palos Verdes Estates, the City of Rancho Palos
37 Verdes, the City of Redondo Beach, the City of Rolling Hills
38 Estates, and the City of West Hollywood; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
40 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports the Los Angeles

1 Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013 (S. 208 and H.R.
2 456) and respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United
3 States to promptly pass and President Barack Obama to sign that
4 legislation; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
7 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative
9 from California in the Congress of the United States.

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