

Senate Joint Resolution No. 11

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 38

Senate Joint Resolution No. 11—Relative to the tandem method of skydiving instruction.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 9, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 11, Kelley. Tandem skydiving equipment and instruction.

Under existing law, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has regulatory authority over equipment and instruction regarding the use of parachutes for skydiving.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States, the FAA, and the skydiving industry to immediately conclude and make permanent a rule change to a specified regulation of the FAA to legalize and legitimize tandem skydiving equipment and the methods of training that have been successfully employed for tandem skydiving.

WHEREAS, Existing federal regulations require that all tandem skydiving instruction and jumping occur under an exemption to regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAR Part 105.43(a)) allowing use of the “dual harness, dual parachute system”; and

WHEREAS, The original test program was anticipated as taking one year to 18 months to demonstrate the safety of the system but has extended to 13 years due to the inability of the FAA to address a permanent rule change; and

WHEREAS, The tandem skydiving system has been thoroughly tested on over 2.5 million “experimental” skydives and has proved itself to be the safest and most popular method of introductory skydiving training ever known; and

WHEREAS, The skydiving industry has now been subject to the exemption process for 13 years with no indications as to when this burdensome and unnecessary process will be concluded; and

WHEREAS, The skydiving industry seeks relief from the burdensome and commercially restrictive requirements of the original exemption, prohibitions which are preventing the industry from expanding into new and acceptable markets; and

WHEREAS, Finalizing a permanent rule change to FAR Part 105.43(a) will maintain or enhance skydiving safety and pose no undue cost burden to the consumer; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That California urges the Congress of the United States, the



Federal Aviation Administration, and the skydiving industry to expeditiously conclude and make permanent the rule change to FAR Part 105.43(a) to legalize and legitimize tandem skydiving equipment and the methods of training that have been successfully employed for tandem skydiving, as intended by the original exemption; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and to the President of the United States Parachute Association.

O

