

Introduced by Senator Thompson
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Strom-Martin)

February 20, 1997

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to closing the flight-service station at the Arcata-Eureka Airport.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 12, as introduced, M. Thompson. Closure of the flight-service station at the Arcata-Eureka Airport in McKinleyville, Humboldt County.

This measure would memorialize Congress to oppose the closure of the air flight-service center at the Arcata-Eureka Airport, in Humboldt County, California, and to direct the Federal Aviation Administration to act accordingly.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration is
2 scheduled to close the flight-service station at the
3 Arcata-Eureka Airport in McKinleyville, Humboldt
4 County; and

5 WHEREAS, All on-site personnel will be eliminated
6 and the airport will be operated as an automatic
7 flight-service center, served by an air traffic controller
8 located in Oakland, California; and

9 WHEREAS, The FAA plan eliminates all air traffic
10 personnel between McMinville, Oregon, and Oakland,
11 California, and this same geographic discrepancy on the
12 east coast of the United States would be similar to

1 eliminating all air traffic controllers between Portland,
2 Maine and Richmond, Virginia; and

3 WHEREAS, The Arcata-Eureka Airport flight-service
4 center has provided daily services for commercial,
5 corporate, and general aviation traffic for over four
6 decades; and

7 WHEREAS, It serves the region's smaller airports,
8 which include Brookings, Oregon, and Crescent City,
9 Fortuna, Shelter Cove, Willow Creek, and Hoopa,
10 California, and averages 150 to 300 contacts and a traffic
11 flow of 40 to 100 airplanes daily; and

12 WHEREAS, There are unique weather and geographic
13 factors to be considered such as that the airport was
14 constructed overlooking the Pacific Ocean by the Navy
15 during World War II to test military defogging
16 equipment, as it is believed to be the foggiest stretch of
17 coastline in the western United States; and

18 WHEREAS, On average, Instrument Flight Rules
19 (IFR) must be filed 265 days per year due to fog and
20 inclement weather, and station personnel must utilize a
21 wide array of tools to ensure air traffic safety, including
22 radio frequencies, the telephone, a direction finder, and
23 on-the-ground view of the runway; and

24 WHEREAS, The closure of the station would put the
25 safety of air travelers on the North Coast of California at
26 risk, air traffic will experience greater delays and flight
27 cancellations, and local efforts to improve the regional
28 economy through tourism and commerce will be
29 adversely affected; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
31 *California, jointly,* That the California Legislature
32 memorializes Congress to oppose the closure of the air
33 flight-service center at the Arcata-Eureka Airport, in
34 Humboldt County, California, and to direct the Federal
35 Aviation Administration to act accordingly; and be it
36 further

37 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
38 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice
39 President of the United States, the Speaker of the House
40 of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative



1 from California in the congress of the United States, and
2 to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
3 Administration.

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