

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 456

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in certain residential areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. WAXMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in certain residential areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Los Angeles Residen-
5 tial Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Residents across Los Angeles County suffer
2 intrusive and disruptive low-flying helicopter traffic
3 above their neighborhoods.

4 (2) Los Angeles County is home to a unique
5 and excessively large concentration of scenic, his-
6 toric, entertainment, and transportation venues, in-
7 cluding sight-seeing, movie studios, movie star
8 homes, outdoor entertainment facilities, Griffith
9 Park, the Hollywood Sign, freeways, and many oth-
10 ers, that generate extensive helicopter activity.

11 (3) Los Angeles County is home to the world's
12 leading civil helicopter manufacturer that conducts
13 extensive helicopter operational testing in the region.

14 (4) The unique terrain of canyons and valleys
15 surrounding residential neighborhoods in Los Ange-
16 les County often concentrates high decibel level noise
17 from the low-flying helicopters in and around resi-
18 dences in Los Angeles County.

19 (5) The concentrated noise interrupts daily life
20 for many Los Angeles County residents by drowning
21 out conversations and disrupting sleep cycles.

22 (6) Despite multiple efforts from several com-
23 munity and homeowner organizations in Los Angeles
24 County to address these disturbances, helicopter
25 traffic in Los Angeles County is not currently regu-

1 lated by the Federal Aviation Administration or any
2 other agency.

3 (7) At the request of members of Congress, the
4 Federal Aviation Administration formed an internal
5 working group in July 2012 to solicit input from
6 local communities and stakeholders on helicopter
7 noise and safety issues in Los Angeles County.

8 (8) As part of that process, several public meet-
9 ings were held in the fall and summer of 2012 that
10 have allowed the Federal Aviation Administration
11 and stakeholders to hear and better understand the
12 concerns and complaints of affected residents.

13 (9) The Federal Aviation Administration is
14 scheduled to release a report in May 2013 evalu-
15 ating a full set of voluntary and regulatory options
16 to reduce helicopter noise and address safety issues
17 in Los Angeles County.

18 (10) The report should explore how helicopters
19 can be regulated in Los Angeles County in a manner
20 that provides relief to residents from helicopter noise
21 while also meeting the needs of relevant stake-
22 holders, including first responders.

1 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS TO REDUCE HELICOPTER NOISE**
2 **POLLUTION IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL**
3 **AREAS.**

4 (a) **REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
6 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall pre-
7 scribe regulations for helicopter operations in Los Angeles
8 County, California, that include requirements relating to
9 the flight paths and altitudes associated with such oper-
10 ations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential
11 areas, increase safety, and minimize scheduled commercial
12 aircraft delays.

13 (b) **EXEMPTIONS.**—In prescribing regulations under
14 subsection (a), the Administrator shall exempt helicopter
15 operations related to emergency, law enforcement, or mili-
16 tary activities from the requirements described in that
17 subsection.

18 (c) **CONSULTATIONS.**—In prescribing regulations
19 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall make rea-
20 sonable efforts to consult with local communities and local
21 helicopter operators in order to develop regulations that
22 meet the needs of local communities, helicopter operators,
23 and the Federal Aviation Administration.

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