

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 208

To require the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas in Los Angeles County, California.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas in Los Angeles County, California.

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 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Residents throughout Los Angeles County
9 suffer intrusive and disruptive low-flying helicopter

1 traffic above their neighborhoods. The unique ter-
2 rain of canyons and valleys that surround residential
3 neighborhoods in Los Angeles County often con-
4 centrate high decibel level noise from the low-flying
5 helicopters in and around Los Angeles County resi-
6 dences. The concentrated noise interrupts daily life
7 for many Los Angeles County residents by drowning
8 out conversations and disrupting sleep cycles.

9 (2) Los Angeles County is home to a uniquely
10 large concentration of scenic, historic, entertain-
11 ment, and transportation venues, including sight-see-
12 ing, movie studios, movie star homes, outdoor enter-
13 tainment facilities, Griffith Park, the Hollywood
14 Sign, freeways, and many others, that generate ex-
15 tensive helicopter activity.

16 (3) Los Angeles County is home to the world's
17 leading civil helicopter manufacturer that conducts
18 extensive helicopter operational testing across the re-
19 gion.

20 (4) Despite multiple efforts from several com-
21 munity and homeowner organizations in Los Angeles
22 County to address these disturbances, helicopter
23 traffic in Los Angeles County is not currently regu-
24 lated by the Federal Aviation Administration or any
25 other agency.

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

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

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

16 (8) The report is expected to explore how heli-
17 copters can be regulated in Los Angeles County in
18 a manner that provides relief to residents from heli-
19 copter noise while also meeting the needs of relevant
20 stakeholders, including first responders.

21 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS TO REDUCE HELICOPTER NOISE**
22 **POLLUTION IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL**
23 **AREAS.**

24 (a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of

1 the Federal Aviation Administration shall prescribe regu-
2 lations for helicopter operations in Los Angeles County,
3 California, that include requirements relating to the flight
4 paths and altitudes associated with such operations to re-
5 duce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas, in-
6 crease safety, and minimize scheduled commercial aircraft
7 delays.

8 (b) EXEMPTIONS.—In prescribing regulations under
9 subsection (a), the Administrator shall exempt helicopter
10 operations related to emergency, law enforcement, or mili-
11 tary activities from the requirements described in that
12 subsection.

13 (c) CONSULTATIONS.—In prescribing regulations
14 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall make rea-
15 sonable efforts to consult with local communities and local
16 helicopter operators in order to develop regulations that
17 meet the needs of local communities, helicopter operators,
18 and the Federal Aviation Administration.

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