



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0085-2024, Version: *

Res. No. 85

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.7638-A/S.7216-A, which would establish a noise tax on non-essential helicopter and seaplane flights in cities with a population of one million or more.

By Council Members Gennaro, Farías, Brewer, Louis, Holden, Hudson and Cabán

Whereas, There are thousands of commercial helicopter flights over New York City each month; and

Whereas, Helicopter-related noise complaints to New York City's 3-1-1 increased from 10,359 in 2020 to 25,821 in 2021 with a vast majority of the complaints coming from Manhattan; and

Whereas, Over the past five years, 3-1-1 has experienced a 2,329% increase in noise complaints related to helicopters; and

Whereas, According to numerous health publications, exposure to excessive noise produced by frequent overhead flights are associated with a number of health effects, including, but not limited to: (i) high blood pressure; (ii) neuroendocrinological issues; (iii) impaired psychological and cognitive functions; (iv) learned helplessness; (v) poorer long-term memory; and (iv) diminished reading comprehension; and

Whereas, Many national and municipal organizations, such as *Stop the Chop NY/NJ*, create public educational campaigns on the dangers to health and the environment that can be caused by non-essential helicopter sightseeing tours and commuter flights that fly over our City; and

Whereas, In an effort to mitigate the impact of the non-essential commercial flights on public health and the environment, A.7638-A, which was introduced by New York State Assemblymember Robert C. Carroll, and companion bill S.7216-A, which was introduced by New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez, seek to amend

the New York State Tax Law by establishing a noise tax on non-essential helicopter and seaplane flights in cities with a population of one million or more; and

Whereas, Pursuant to A.7638-A/S.7216-A, the tax rate on such aircrafts would be fifty dollars per seat ticket, or two hundred dollars per flight, whichever is greater; and

Whereas, Under A.7638-A/S.7216-A, flight operators who fail to pay this tax due to willful neglect would subject to a penalty of four hundred percent of the total tax amount due; and

Whereas, A.7638-A/S.7216-A, would mandate that all funds collected under this new tax be deposited in New York State's Environmental Protection Fund; and

Whereas, The New York State Senate passed S.7216 on June 8, 2023 and was delivered to the Assembly on the same day; and

Whereas, Enacting A.7638-A/S.7216-A would help reduce noise pollution from the plethora of non-essential aircrafts that affect the millions of residents in our great City; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.7638-A/S.7216-A, which would establish a noise tax on non-essential helicopter and seaplane flights in cities with a population of one million or more.

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