

Introduced by Senator MargettFebruary 4, 2008

An act to add Section 1797.9 to, and to repeal Section 1798.169 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1141, as introduced, Margett. Emergency medical services.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority and requires it to develop planning and implementation guidelines for local emergency medical services systems which address, among other components, transportation, system organization and management, and disaster response.

Existing law requires the authority to adopt regulations that provide specific requirements for the care of trauma cases and ensure that the trauma care system is fully coordinated with all elements of the existing emergency medical services system. A local emergency medical services agency implementing a trauma care system is required to establish policies and procedures which are concordant and consistent with the minimum standards set forth in the regulations adopted by the authority. Existing law provides that nothing in the provisions of the act regarding the trauma care system is to be construed as restricting the use of a helicopter of the Department of the California Highway Patrol from performing missions which the department determines are in the best interests of the people of the State of California.

This bill would repeal this provision and would, instead, prohibit a construction act that restricts, or authorizes a restriction on, the use of public aircraft, as defined in federal regulations, for the purpose of

providing rescue services, including search and rescue missions and emergency medical services, including the transport of persons in need of emergency medical care to an appropriately designated health care facility.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.9 is added to the Health and Safety
2 Code, to read:

3 1797.9. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the
4 following:

5 (1) It is the policy of the state to promote a readiness capability
6 consisting of public safety or public use aircraft against threats to
7 the state including earthquakes, flooding, fires and other natural
8 disasters, as well as promoting a readiness capability to respond
9 to search and rescue incidents, terrorist incidents, large-scale
10 hazardous materials events, or other manmade emergencies.

11 (2) Public aircraft for public safety uses are a scarce and valuable
12 asset for the people of the State of California.

13 (b) This division may not be construed to restrict, or authorize
14 a restriction on, the use of public aircraft, as defined in Section
15 1.1 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, for the purpose
16 of providing rescue services, including search and rescue missions
17 and emergency medical services, including the transport of persons
18 in need of emergency medical care to an appropriately designated
19 health care facility.

20 SEC. 2. Section 1798.169 of the Health and Safety Code is
21 repealed.

22 ~~1798.169. Nothing in this article shall be construed as~~
23 ~~restricting the use of a helicopter of the Department of the~~
24 ~~California Highway Patrol from performing missions which the~~
25 ~~department determines are in the best interests of the people of the~~
26 ~~State of California.~~