

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3—Senator Horsford

Joint Sponsor: Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Federal Aviation Administration and the Clark County Department of Aviation to convene a stakeholders' group to develop and make recommendations to improve flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly with respect to experimental homebuilt aircraft.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Federal law provides that the United States Government has exclusive sovereignty of airspace of the United States and requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations on the flight of aircraft to prevent collisions between aircraft and to protect persons and property on the ground. (49 U.S.C. § 40103) This resolution urges the Federal Aviation Administration to work closely with the Clark County Department of Aviation to convene a stakeholders' group to develop and make recommendations to improve flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly with respect to experimental homebuilt aircraft.

WHEREAS, The expansion of urban areas in Clark County increasingly places homes and neighborhoods directly in the flight paths of aircraft flying to and from the North Las Vegas Airport; and

WHEREAS, Flights of experimental homebuilt aircraft to and from the North Las Vegas Airport are increasingly common; and

WHEREAS, Experimental homebuilt aircraft have higher accident rates than other types of aircraft and accounted for more than 12 percent of airplane accidents nationwide in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Experimental homebuilt aircraft have been involved in nine accidents at airports within the Clark County airport system since 2003, three of which were at the North Las Vegas Airport; and

WHEREAS, A crash involving an experimental homebuilt aircraft flying from the North Las Vegas Airport resulted in the deaths of two persons on the ground in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration sets standards for the number of hours experimental homebuilt aircraft must be tested before such aircraft can be operated at airports such as the North Las Vegas Airport; and

WHEREAS, Some of the experimental homebuilt aircraft operated at the North Las Vegas Airport may have been operated without having met those national standards; and



WHEREAS, The safety of persons who live near the North Las Vegas Airport is of the highest concern to the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, The Clark County Department of Aviation cannot regulate the flights of experimental homebuilt aircraft to and from the North Las Vegas Airport because federal law provides the United States Government with exclusive sovereignty of airspace in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature expresses serious concerns regarding the current flight safety practices at the North Las Vegas Airport; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Federal Aviation Administration to work closely with the Clark County Department of Aviation and the entire aviation community in Clark County to convene not later than June 1, 2009, a stakeholders' group, which must include, without limitation:

1. A representative from the Federal Aviation Administration;
2. A representative of the Clark County Department of Aviation;
3. A representative of the Clark County Aviation Association;
4. A representative of the City of North Las Vegas;
5. A representative of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association;
6. Residents of neighborhoods surrounding the North Las Vegas Airport; and
7. Tenants of the North Las Vegas Airport; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the stakeholders' group shall, on or before August 1, 2009, issue its preliminary analysis of the concerns regarding the current flight safety practices at the North Las Vegas Airport; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the stakeholders' group shall, on or before November 1, 2009, develop and make recommendations to improve flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly with respect to experimental homebuilt aircraft, for submission to the appropriate entities for consideration and to the Legislative Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Nevada Congressional Delegation to use its best efforts to encourage the Federal Aviation Administration to participate in this endeavor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal



Aviation Administration, the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, the Director of the Clark County Department of Aviation, the North Las Vegas City Council and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.



