

STATE OF NEW YORK

8473

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 17, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to allowing for compensation for noise pollution by rotorcraft; to amend chapter 592 of the laws of 1998, constituting the Hudson river park act, in relation to the use of certain heliports in the city of New York; and to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the granting of certain franchises, consents and concessions relating to the use of certain heliports

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The general obligations law is amended by adding a new
2 section 11-108 to read as follows:

3 § 11-108. Compensation for noise pollution by rotorcraft. 1. For the
4 purposes of this section, "rotorcraft" means an aircraft whose lift is
5 derived principally from rotating airfoils, including but not limited to
6 a helicopter.

7 2. Any person who shall have suffered interference with the use and
8 enjoyment of private property or public parkland by a rotorcraft used in
9 a manner that creates an unreasonable level of sustained noise at ground
10 level, including the interior, balcony, or other outdoor area of a
11 building, shall have a right of action against any person, except a
12 passenger with no control of the operation of the rotorcraft other than
13 the selection of a pre-designated route, who shall have caused or
14 contributed to the use of such rotorcraft in such manner.

15 3. Such action may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction.

16 4. (a) A person shall not be liable under this section if the use of
17 the rotorcraft in such a manner was necessary for purposes of heavy-lift
18 operations in support of construction and infrastructure maintenance or
19 purposes of public health and safety, including law enforcement, emer-
20 gency response, disaster response, the provision of medical services,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 and providing other services for the benefit of the general public,
2 including flights carried out for research or for official purposes by a
3 news organization.

4 5. A person found liable under this section shall be liable for a
5 penalty of not less than one thousand dollars and not more than ten
6 thousand dollars for each day the rotorcraft creates an unreasonable
7 level of noise at ground level, including the interior, balcony, or
8 other outdoor area of a building.

9 6. The attorney general, in the name of the people of the state of New
10 York, or a city corporation counsel on behalf of the locality, may bring
11 an action to enjoin and restrain violations of this section and to
12 obtain restitution and damages.

13 § 2. Paragraph (v) of subdivision (g) of section 3 of chapter 592 of
14 the laws of 1998, constituting the Hudson river park act, as amended by
15 chapter 517 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

16 (v) a non-tourism/non-recreation heliport for [~~commercial and emer-~~
17 ~~gency~~] essential transportation use necessary for purposes of heavy-lift
18 operations in support of construction and infrastructure maintenance or
19 purposes of public health and safety, including law enforcement, emer-
20 gency response, disaster response, the provision of medical services,
21 and providing other services for the benefit of the general public,
22 including flights carried out for research or for official purposes by a
23 news organization; and

24 § 3. Paragraph (v) of subdivision (m) of section 3 of chapter 592 of
25 the laws of 1998, constituting the Hudson river park act, as added by
26 chapter 517 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

27 (v) the development, operation and maintenance of a non-tourism/non-
28 recreational heliport for essential transportation use located between
29 [~~west~~] West 29th and [~~west~~] West 32nd streets provided (A) that there
30 shall be no structures other than the helicopter take-off or landing
31 pads built on floating structures; and (B) such floating structures
32 shall be no higher than a pier deck at low tide; and

33 § 4. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (i) of subdivision 9 of section 7
34 of chapter 592 of the laws of 1998, constituting the Hudson river park
35 act, as added by chapter 517 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as
36 follows:

37 (ii) a one story heliport terminal building, fuel tank structure and
38 five accessory parking spaces used in connection with a water dependent
39 non-tourism/non-recreational heliport for essential transportation use
40 to be located on a floating structure located between [~~west~~] West 29th
41 and [~~west~~] West 32nd streets provided that the landing and takeoff area
42 located east of the bulkhead may continue to operate until the landing
43 and takeoff area west of the bulkhead is completed and operational; or

44 § 5. The New York city charter is amended by adding a new section 366
45 to read as follows:

46 § 366. Prohibited franchises, revocable consents, and concessions.
47 Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the city
48 may not, directly or indirectly, grant any franchise, revocable consent
49 or concession that allows for the use of heliports for any purpose
50 except purposes of heavy-lift operations in support of construction and
51 infrastructure maintenance or purposes of public health and safety,
52 including law enforcement, emergency response, disaster response, the
53 provision of medical services, and providing other services for the
54 benefit of the general public, including flights carried out for
55 research or for official purposes by a news organization. Any franchise
56 or concession in effect upon the effective date of this section that

1 would be prohibited under this section shall continue only pursuant to
2 the contractual terms of the agreement and only for the term thereof or
3 pursuant to any extension according to the terms thereof if, but only
4 if, the option to extend is exercised solely by and is a contractual
5 right of the grantee.

6 § 6. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
7 have become a law; provided that uses permitted under any lease, permit,
8 license, or other instrument in effect upon the effective date of this
9 act that would be prohibited upon the enactment of sections two, three
10 and four of this act may continue only pursuant to the terms of the
11 instrument and only for the term thereof or pursuant to any extension
12 according to the terms thereof if, but only if, the option to extend is
13 exercised solely by and is a contractual right of the lessee, permittee,
14 licensee or other contractual user.