

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Unmanned Aircraft, commonly referred to as drones, have become more popular with hobbyists over recent years, as they become cheaper and more technologically advanced; and

WHEREAS, recently, there have been numerous incidents of unmanned aircraft interfering with airborne firefighting operations at wildfire scenes across the state; and

WHEREAS, fire departments across the state have been forced to stop or postpone air drops on fires, severely hampering fire suppression efforts, due to the presence of unmanned aircraft; and

WHEREAS, unmanned aircraft pose a threat to the safety of aircrews of manned firefighting aircraft, and legislation is needed to enable public safety officials to disable unmanned aircraft that are interfering with firefighting operations; and

WHEREAS, SB 168 (Gaines) would address this public safety issue by indemnifying emergency personnel who disable or damage an unmanned aircraft in the course of their duties; and

WHEREAS, SB 168 would ensure that firefighters and emergency personnel can take any steps necessary to clear the airspace over wildfires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015 - 2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 168 (Gaines), which would legally indemnify any emergency responder who damages an unmanned aircraft in the course of firefighting, air ambulance transport, or in search-and-rescue operations.

PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District


AUG 5 2015

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL