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HOSPITAL HELIPORTS AND HELISTOPS

House Bill 5583

Sponsor: Rep. David Gubow

House Bill 5584

Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Raczkowski

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 2-19-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 5583 AND 5584 AS INTRODUCED 2-18-98

House Bills 5583 and 5584 would amend the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan to prohibit discrimination regarding access to landing areas, and to set the minimum requirements for licensing hospital heliports and helistops. The bills are tie-barred.

House Bill 5583 (MCL 259.20c and 259.24a) would prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, gender, ancestry, lineage, descent, heredity, or familial relationship with regard to access or usage of public use facilities and private landing areas. Further, the bill would add the definitions of "hospital" and "hospital helistop" to the act. Finally, the bill would clarify the definition of "private landing area" to ensure that an owner and any person authorized by an owner would have the right to use a private landing area, despite discrimination prohibitions.

House Bill 5584 (MCL 259.86a and 259.89) would set 12 minimum requirements for licensure as a hospital heliport. To be licensed, a heliport would have to be reserved solely for air ambulance use or other hospital-related functions; have a licensed airport manager; have final approach and takeoff areas meeting certain dimension and alignment configurations to ensure safety; be secured (fenced or marked with caution signs) to prevent unauthorized entry; have a paved touchdown and liftoff area; have a lighted wind direction indicator and suitable lighting for night operations; and, have identification markings that comply with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

Further, to be licensed as a hospital helistop, a helistop would have to: have a licensed airport manager; be reserved solely for air ambulance use; have at least one suitable approach path, a wind direction indicator, and appropriate permanent or temporary lighting available for night operations; and, have security adequate to prevent bystanders from approaching a helicopter as it departs or lands.

House Bills 5583 & 5584 (2-19-98)

The bill also would require the pilot of a helicopter to get landing permission from the manager (or a designee) at a hospital heliport or helistop.

Analyst: J. Hunault

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.