

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Chesbro**

February 20, 2004

---

---

An act to amend Sections 5500 and 5501 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to commercial common carriers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1704, as introduced, Chesbro. Commercial air carriers: hot air balloons.

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to require every commercial air operator, as defined, to procure and continue in effect, adequate protection against liability for personal bodily injuries and property damage as a result of an accident, that may be imposed by law upon the operator and upon any person using, operating, or renting an aircraft, as defined, with the permission of the operator.

This bill would exclude a corporation or person furnishing or providing transportation by hot air balloon for entertainment or recreational purposes from the definitions of commercial air operator and aircraft.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 5500 of the Public Utilities Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 5500. As used in this article, "commercial air operator"  
4 means any person owning, controlling, operating, renting, or  
5 managing aircraft for any commercial purpose for compensation.  
6 "*Commercial air operator*" does not include a person owning,

1 *controlling, operating, renting, managing, furnishing, or*  
2 *otherwise providing transportation by hot air balloon for*  
3 *entertainment or recreational purposes.*

4 SEC. 2. Section 5501 of the Public Utilities Code is amended  
5 to read:

6 5501. As used in this article, “aircraft” means any  
7 contrivance used for navigation of, or flight in, the air. “Aircraft”  
8 *does not include a hot air balloon furnished or providing*  
9 *transportation for entertainment or recreational purposes.*

