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HOUSE BILL 2108

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris and Hudgins

1 AN ACT Relating to conducting a comprehensive study of aerial  
2 imagery needs for state agencies and local governments intended to  
3 provide officials with the information needed for day-to-day business  
4 workflow and decision-making tasks; creating new sections; and  
5 providing an expiration date.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that state  
8 agencies and local governments increasingly rely on high-resolution  
9 aerial imagery to conduct their business. Local disaster agencies use  
10 aerial images for public safety efforts. County assessors use oblique  
11 pictures as an integral part of their valuation activities. State  
12 department officials rely on aerial images for the development of  
13 commerce plans and to manage natural resources effectively.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that there are impediments to  
15 agencies acquiring high-quality aerial imagery. Typical barriers for  
16 local governments are the cost of acquiring and managing the tool, a  
17 lack of technical expertise to obtain, install, and maintain the  
18 resource, and a lack of legal and pragmatic infrastructure to  
19 facilitate sharing.

20 (3) The legislature further finds that successful decisions  
21 depend on reliable, accurate, and timely information. When imagery is

1 not timely updated, government decisions may be made based on  
2 inaccurate information. Creating a statewide repository for high-  
3 quality aerial imagery for distribution between state and local  
4 governments would result in lower costs to all users, better informed  
5 decisions, more frequent updating of data, and reduced waste from  
6 duplication of efforts by multiple agencies.

7 (4) The legislature further finds that the mission and key role  
8 of the department of natural resources is to convene local, state,  
9 and regional governments to enhance and promote sustainable community  
10 in Washington state. The department of natural resources understands  
11 and supports the diverse needs of local leaders in cities, towns, and  
12 counties across the state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) Subject to the availability of  
14 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of  
15 natural resources shall conduct an aerial imagery needs assessment  
16 study for state agencies and local governments statewide. The purpose  
17 of the study is to identify the needs of state agencies and local  
18 governments and to determine the appropriate agency for hosting a  
19 statewide imagery repository. Ultimately, this imagery information is  
20 being collected so that state and local officials have better  
21 information available as they conduct everyday business, protect  
22 property, assist citizens, conduct emergency planning, and respond to  
23 disasters.

24 (b) The assessment study must evaluate the need by determining a  
25 minimum resolution level that best serves the majority of users  
26 statewide. Individual counties requiring greater topographical  
27 resolution can satisfy those needs independently.

28 (2) The assessment study must, at a minimum:

29 (a) Include an assessment of:

30 (i) Aerial imagery needs of state agencies and local governments;

31 (ii) Types of imagery needed;

32 (iii) Frequency that various types of imagery are needed;

33 (iv) The current amount of funds that agencies spend on imagery;

34 (v) The best available mechanism for cost sharing and managing  
35 the acquisition of imagery; and

36 (vi) The most effective organization to act as a central  
37 repository for shared imagery and provide a secured means to share  
38 between public bodies; and

1           (b) Identify and interview a sample of state department  
2 representatives and county officials to assess their needs and  
3 priorities for the future development and use for the imagery data  
4 provided.

5           (3) The department of natural resources must convene and define  
6 the scope of the assessment study and assist in the design of  
7 information collection. The department of commerce may complete its  
8 work directly or utilize the services of consultants to complete its  
9 assignment or portions of the assignment. However, the final  
10 delivered product must be issued by the department of natural  
11 resources.

12           (4) The assessment study must include recommendations on current  
13 sources that provide imagery data, further steps to improve the  
14 collection of aerial imagery data, and steps necessary to implement a  
15 comprehensive, cost-efficient, aerial imagery collection and  
16 distribution system to serve state and county officials in a  
17 statewide system.

18           (5) By October 15, 2017, the assessment study must be completed  
19 and the results reported to the legislature in accordance with the  
20 requirements of RCW 43.01.036.

21           (6) This section expires June 30, 2018.

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