
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2295

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Slatter, Fey, McBride, Dolan, Macri, and Doglio)

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-
2 electric aircraft for regional air travel; amending RCW 47.68.070;
3 adding new sections to chapter 47.68 RCW; creating new sections; and
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
7 prospect of transitioning from aircraft powered by burning fuel to
8 aircraft powered at least partially by electrical propulsion promises
9 a variety of economic, social, and environmental benefits, including:

10 (a) Reduced fuel costs that make expanded commercial service of
11 smaller regional airports economically viable;

12 (b) Support for the type of dispersed and rural economic
13 development already envisioned elsewhere in state policy, including
14 through the state's participation in the western regional short-haul
15 air transportation compact under chapter 81.96 RCW or similar types
16 of multistate collaborative forums that currently exist through the
17 northwest region national association of state aviation officials;

18 (c) Reduced traffic on state roads as a result of short-haul
19 flights becoming price-competitive with driving;

1 (d) A redistribution of air traffic from overly busy hubs to
2 airports dispersed across the state that would otherwise operate
3 below capacity;

4 (e) Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft fuel use; and

5 (f) Reduced impacts on communities located adjacent to busy
6 airport hubs from decreases in aircraft noise and emissions of
7 conventional air pollutants.

8 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to continue
9 Washington's leading role in the aerospace industry by encouraging
10 the development and adoption of aircraft whose propulsion is fully or
11 partially powered by electricity.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) To support realization of the public benefits described in
15 section 1 of this act, the department shall solicit input from the
16 work group established in section 3 of this act and adopt goals for
17 encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-electric aircraft in
18 commercial air travel in Washington state. These goals shall consider
19 the interests of industry and airports, and shall focus on maximizing
20 growth in Washington state regional commercial air service travel.
21 The work group shall develop specific, measurable goals for the years
22 2030, 2040, and 2050, that reflect progressive and substantial
23 increases in the utilization of electric and hybrid-electric
24 commercial aircraft.

25 (2) By January 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the
26 department must submit a report to the legislature consistent with
27 RCW 43.01.036 describing the state's progress towards achieving the
28 goals developed by the work group established in section 3 of this
29 act.

30 (3) By 2020, the department must require commercial service
31 airports and airlines operating in Washington state to track, record,
32 and report to the department annually the total number of operations,
33 miles flown, and number of passengers on aircraft that are powered at
34 least partially by electrical propulsion systems for commercial
35 service flights.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) The department must convene a work group to analyze the
2 state of the electrically powered aircraft industry and current
3 infrastructure to develop a sustainable plan for achieving the goals
4 developed by the work group as described in section 1 of this act.
5 The chair of the work group may be a consultant specializing in
6 aeronautics, and the work group must include representation from the
7 electric aircraft industry, the aircraft manufacturing industry, the
8 electric utility districts, the battery industry, the department of
9 commerce, the department of transportation aviation division, the
10 airlines pilots association, the aviation caucus, a primary airport
11 representing an airport association, and the airline industry. The
12 work group may include other members at the discretion of the
13 department.

14 (b) The work group must consider, at a minimum, and make
15 recommendations on the feasibility of electric or hybrid-electric
16 flight given federal aviation administration certification
17 requirements, the rate at which battery technology is advancing, the
18 necessary infrastructure requirements at primary airports, whether
19 industry incentives are required and feasible, possible public-
20 private partnerships, impacts to revenues generated from aviation
21 fuel sales, educational requirements for maintaining electric or
22 hybrid-electric powered aircraft, whether or not additional homeland
23 security checkpoints would be required, the public perception of the
24 technology, cost comparison between the use of fossil fuels versus
25 electric or hybrid-electric engines in powering aircraft, and
26 policies needed to facilitate electric or hybrid-electric powered
27 aircraft use for commercial air travel in Washington state. The work
28 group must submit a report with its findings and recommendations to
29 the transportation committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.
30 The chair of the work group must provide an interim report to the
31 transportation committees of the legislature by December 1, 2018.

32 (2) This section expires July 1, 2020.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.68.070 and 1984 c 7 s 344 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 The department has general supervision over aeronautics within
36 this state. It is empowered and directed to encourage, foster, and
37 assist in the development and sustainment of aeronautics in this
38 state, including aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft,
39 and to encourage the establishment of airports and air navigation

1 facilities. It shall cooperate with and assist the federal
2 government, the municipalities of this state, and other persons in
3 the development of aeronautics, including aeronautics involving
4 electrically powered aircraft, and shall seek to coordinate the
5 aeronautical activities of these bodies and persons. Municipalities
6 are authorized to cooperate with the department in the development of
7 aeronautics and aeronautical facilities in this state.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act may be known and cited as the
9 linking communities by encouraging regional aircraft electrification
10 act or known and cited as the LINK-AIR act.

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