
SENATE BILL 5337

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Sutherland and Vognild

Read first time 01/25/93. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of transportation's aeronautics
2 division; amending RCW 14.20.010, 14.20.020, 47.68.020, 47.68.230,
3 47.68.240, and 47.68.250; adding a new section to chapter 47.68 RCW;
4 and prescribing penalties.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 14.20.010 and 1984 c 7 s 9 are each amended to read as
7 follows:

8 When used in this chapter and RCW 47.68.250 and 82.48.100:

9 (1) "Person" includes a firm, partnership, or corporation;

10 (2) "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling,
11 exchanging, or acting as a broker of aircraft or who offers for sale
12 two or more aircraft within a calendar year;

13 (3) "Aircraft" means any weight-carrying device or structure for
14 navigation of the air, designed to be supported by the air, but which
15 is heavier than air and is mechanically driven;

16 (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of the state department of
17 transportation.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 14.20.020 and 1984 c 7 s 10 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) It is unlawful for a person to act as an aircraft dealer
4 without a currently valid aircraft dealer's license issued under this
5 chapter. A person acting as an aircraft dealer without a currently
6 issued aircraft dealer's license is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall
7 be punished by either a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or
8 by imprisonment for not more than ninety days, or both. A person
9 convicted on a second or subsequent conviction within a five-year
10 period is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by either
11 a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or by imprisonment for
12 not more than one year, or both. In addition to, or in lieu of, the
13 penalties provided in this section, or as a condition to the suspension
14 of a sentence that may be imposed under this section, the court in its
15 discretion may prohibit the violator from acting as an aircraft dealer
16 within the state for such a period as it may determine but not to
17 exceed one year. Violation of the duly imposed prohibition of the
18 court may be treated as a separate offense under this section or as
19 contempt of court.

20 (2) Any person applying for an aircraft dealer's license shall do
21 so at the office of the secretary on a form provided for that purpose
22 by the secretary.

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

25 The department shall require that every aircraft worker that is not
26 registered under RCW 47.68.233 and who is a resident of this state, or
27 every nonresident aircraft worker who is regularly performing duties as
28 an aircraft worker within this state, be registered with the
29 department. The department shall charge an annual fee not to exceed
30 ten dollars for each registration. A registration certificate issued
31 under this section is to be renewed annually during the month of the
32 registrant's birthdate.

33 The department shall use the registration fee imposed under this
34 section for the purposes of: (1) Search and rescue of lost and downed
35 aircraft and aircraft workers under the direction and supervision of
36 the secretary; and (2) safety and education.

37 Registration is affected by filing with the department a certified
38 written statement that contains the information reasonably required by

1 the department. The department shall issue certificates of
2 registration and, in connection with the certificates, shall provide
3 requirements for the possession and exhibition of the certificates.

4 Failure to register as provided in this section is a violation of
5 RCW 47.68.239 and subjects the offender to the penalties incident to
6 this section.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 47.68.020 and 1984 c 7 s 342 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates
10 otherwise:

11 (1) "Aeronautics" means the science and art of flight and including
12 but not limited to transportation by aircraft; the operation,
13 construction, repair, or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft power plants
14 and accessories, including the repair, packing, and maintenance of
15 parachutes; the design, establishment, construction, extension,
16 operation, improvement, repair, or maintenance of airports or air
17 navigation facilities; and instruction in flying or ground subjects
18 pertaining thereto.

19 (2) "Aircraft" means any contrivance now known, or hereafter
20 invented, used or designed for navigation of or flight in the air.

21 (3) "Airport" means any area of land or water which is used, or
22 intended for use, for the landing and take-off of aircraft, and any
23 appurtenant areas which are used, or intended for use, for airport
24 buildings or other airport facilities or right-of-way, together with
25 all airport buildings and facilities located thereon.

26 (4) "Department" means the state department of transportation.

27 (5) "Secretary" means the state secretary of transportation.

28 (6) "State" or "this state" means the state of Washington.

29 (7) "Air navigation facility" means any facility, other than one
30 owned or operated by the United States, used in, available for use in,
31 or designed for use in aid of air navigation, including any structures,
32 mechanisms, lights, beacons, markers, communicating systems, or other
33 instrumentalities or devices used or useful as an aid, or constituting
34 an advantage or convenience, to the safe taking-off, navigation, and
35 landing of aircraft, or the safe and efficient operation or maintenance
36 of an airport, and any combination of any or all of such facilities.

1 (8) "Operation of aircraft" or "operate aircraft" means the use,
2 navigation, or piloting of aircraft in the airspace over this state or
3 upon any airport within this state.

4 (9) "~~(Airman)~~ aircraft worker" means any individual who engages,
5 as the person in command, or as pilot, mechanic, or member of the crew
6 in the navigation of aircraft while under way, and any individual who
7 is directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling, or
8 repair of aircraft engines, airframes, propellers, or appliances, and
9 any individual who serves in the capacity of aircraft dispatcher or
10 air-traffic control tower operator; but does not include any individual
11 employed outside the United States, or any individual employed by a
12 manufacturer of aircraft, aircraft engines, airframes, propellers, or
13 appliances to perform duties as inspector or mechanic in connection
14 therewith, or any individual performing inspection or mechanical duties
15 in connection with aircraft owned or operated by the person.

16 (10) "Aeronautics instructor" means any individual who for hire or
17 reward engages in giving instruction or offering to give instruction in
18 flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics, but excludes any
19 instructor in a public school, university, or institution of higher
20 learning duly accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate work,
21 who instructs in flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics,
22 while in the performance of his or her duties at such school,
23 university, or institution.

24 (11) "Air school" means any person who advertises, represents, or
25 holds out as giving or offering to give instruction in flying or ground
26 subjects pertaining to aeronautics whether for or without hire or
27 reward; but excludes any public school, university, or institution of
28 higher learning duly accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate
29 work.

30 (12) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation,
31 company, association, joint stock association, or body politic; and
32 includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other similar
33 representative thereof.

34 (13) "Municipal" means pertaining to a municipality, and
35 "municipality" means any county, city, town, authority, district, or
36 other political subdivision or public corporation of this state.

37 (14) "Airport hazard" means any structure, object of natural
38 growth, or use of land, which obstructs the airspace required for the

1 flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an airport or is
2 otherwise hazardous to such landing or taking off.

3 (15) "State airway" means a route in the navigable airspace over
4 and above the lands or waters of this state, designated by the
5 department as a route suitable for air navigation.

6 **Sec. 5.** RCW 47.68.230 and 1987 c 220 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or cause or
9 authorize to be operated any civil aircraft within this state unless
10 such aircraft has an appropriate effective certificate, permit or
11 license issued by the United States, if such certificate, permit or
12 license is required by the United States, and a current registration
13 certificate issued by the secretary of transportation, if registration
14 of the aircraft with the department of transportation is required by
15 this chapter. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in
16 aeronautics as an ((airman)) aircraft worker in the state unless ((he))
17 the person has an appropriate effective ((airman)) aircraft worker
18 certificate, permit, rating or license issued by the United States
19 authorizing him or her to engage in the particular class of aeronautics
20 in which he or she is engaged, if such certificate, permit, rating or
21 license is required by the United States and a current ((airman's))
22 aircraft worker's registration certificate issued by the department of
23 transportation as required by RCW 47.68.233 or section 3 of this act.

24 Where a certificate, permit, rating or license is required for an
25 ((airman)) aircraft worker by the United States or by RCW 47.68.233 or
26 section 3 of this act, it shall be kept in his or her personal
27 possession when he or she is operating within the state. Where a
28 certificate, permit or license is required by the United States or by
29 this chapter for an aircraft, it shall be carried in the aircraft at
30 all times while the aircraft is operating in the state and shall be
31 conspicuously posted in the aircraft where it may be readily seen by
32 passengers or inspectors. Such certificates shall be presented for
33 inspection upon the demand of any peace officer, or any other officer
34 of the state or of a municipality or member, official or employee of
35 the department of transportation authorized pursuant to this chapter to
36 enforce the aeronautics laws, or any official, manager or person in
37 charge of any airport, or upon the reasonable request of any person.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 47.68.240 and 1987 c 202 s 216 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter, or any
4 of the rules, regulations, or orders issued pursuant thereto, shall be
5 guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more
6 than one (~~hundred~~) thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more
7 than (~~thirty~~) ninety days, or both such fine and imprisonment:
8 PROVIDED, That any person violating any of the provisions of RCW
9 47.68.220 (~~or 47.68.230~~) shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor which
10 shall be punished by a fine of not more than (~~one~~) five thousand
11 dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year or by both (~~in~~
12 ~~any proceeding brought in superior court and by a fine of not more than~~
13 ~~five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months or~~
14 ~~by both in any proceedings brought in district court)). In addition~~
15 to, or in lieu of, the penalties provided in this section, or as a
16 condition to the suspension of a sentence which may be imposed pursuant
17 thereto, the court in its discretion may prohibit the violator from
18 operating an aircraft within the state for such period as it may
19 determine but not to exceed one year. Violation of the duly imposed
20 prohibition of the court may be treated as a separate offense under
21 this section or as a contempt of court.

22 **Sec. 7.** RCW 47.68.250 and 1987 c 220 s 3 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 Every aircraft shall be registered with the department for each
25 calendar year in which the aircraft is operated or is based within this
26 state. A fee of four dollars shall be charged for each such
27 registration and each annual renewal thereof.

28 Possession of the appropriate effective federal certificate,
29 permit, rating, or license relating to ownership and airworthiness of
30 the aircraft, and payment of the excise tax imposed by Title 82 RCW for
31 the privilege of using the aircraft within this state during the year
32 for which the registration is sought, and payment of the registration
33 fee required by this section shall be the only requisites for
34 registration of an aircraft under this section.

35 The registration fee imposed by this section shall be payable to
36 and collected by the secretary. The fee for any calendar year must be
37 paid during the month of January, and shall be collected by the
38 secretary at the time of the collection by him or her of the said

1 excise tax. If the secretary is satisfied that the requirements for
2 registration of the aircraft have been met, he or she shall thereupon
3 issue to the owner of the aircraft a certificate of registration
4 therefor. The secretary shall pay to the state treasurer the
5 registration fees collected under this section, which registration fees
6 shall be credited to the aeronautics account in the general fund.

7 It shall not be necessary for the registrant to provide the
8 secretary with originals or copies of federal certificates, permits,
9 ratings, or licenses. The secretary shall issue certificates of
10 registration, or such other evidences of registration or payment of
11 fees as he or she may deem proper; and in connection therewith may
12 prescribe requirements for the possession and exhibition of such
13 certificates or other evidences.

14 The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

15 (1) An aircraft owned by and used exclusively in the service of any
16 government or any political subdivision thereof, including the
17 government of the United States, any state, territory, or possession of
18 the United States, or the District of Columbia, which is not engaged in
19 carrying persons or property for commercial purposes;

20 (2) An aircraft registered under the laws of a foreign country;

21 (3) An aircraft which is owned by a nonresident and registered in
22 another state: PROVIDED, That if said aircraft shall remain in and/or
23 be based in this state for a period of ninety days or longer it shall
24 not be exempt under this section;

25 (4) An aircraft engaged principally in commercial flying
26 constituting an act of interstate or foreign commerce;

27 (5) An aircraft owned by the commercial manufacturer thereof while
28 being operated for test or experimental purposes, or for the purpose of
29 training crews for purchasers of the aircraft;

30 (6) An aircraft being held for sale, exchange, delivery, test, or
31 demonstration purposes solely as stock in trade of an aircraft dealer
32 licensed under Title 14 RCW;

33 (7) An aircraft based within the state that is in an unairworthy
34 condition, is not operated within the registration period, and has
35 obtained a written exemption issued by the secretary.

36 The secretary shall be notified within one week of any change in
37 ownership of a registered aircraft. The notification shall contain the
38 N, NC, NR, NL, or NX number of the aircraft, the full name and address
39 of the former owner, and the full name and address of the new owner.

1 For failure to so notify the secretary, the registration of that
2 aircraft may be canceled by the secretary, subject to reinstatement
3 upon application and payment of a reinstatement fee of ten dollars by
4 the new owner.

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