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HOUSE BILL 2295

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Slatter, Fey, McBride, Dolan, Macri, and Doglio

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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 adopt the following goals  
16 for encouraging the use of electric or hybrid-electric aircraft in  
17 commercial air travel in Washington state:

18 (a) By 2030, thirty percent of arrivals and departures from  
19 airports in Washington involving commercial flights of between one  
20 hundred and one thousand miles must be completed by aircraft that are  
21 powered at least partially by electrical propulsion systems; and

22 (b) By 2040, fifty percent of arrivals and departures from  
23 airports in Washington involving commercial flights of between one  
24 hundred and one thousand five hundred miles must be completed by  
25 aircraft that are powered at least partially by electrical propulsion  
26 systems.

27 (2) By January 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the  
28 department must submit a report to the legislature consistent with  
29 RCW 43.01.036 describing the state's progress towards achieving the  
30 goals described in subsection (1) of this section.

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

33 (1)(a) The department must convene a work group to analyze the  
34 state of the electrically powered aircraft industry and current  
35 infrastructure to develop a sustainable plan for achieving the goals  
36 described in section 1 of this act. The chair of the work group may  
37 be a consultant specializing in aeronautics, and the work group must  
38 include representation from the electric aircraft industry, the

1 aircraft manufacturing industry, and the airline industry. The work  
2 group may include other members at the discretion of the department.

3 (b) The work group must consider and make recommendations on  
4 necessary infrastructure requirements at primary airports, whether  
5 industry incentives are required and feasible, possible public-  
6 private partnerships, impacts to revenues generated from aviation  
7 fuel sales, educational requirements for maintaining electric or  
8 hybrid-electric powered aircraft, and policies needed to facilitate  
9 electric or hybrid-electric powered aircraft use for commercial air  
10 travel in Washington state. The work group must submit a report with  
11 its findings and recommendations to the transportation committees of  
12 the legislature by December 1, 2019.

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

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

16 The department has general supervision over aeronautics within  
17 this state. It is empowered and directed to encourage, foster, and  
18 assist in the development and sustainment of aeronautics in this  
19 state, including aeronautics involving electrically powered aircraft,  
20 and to encourage the establishment of airports and air navigation  
21 facilities. It shall cooperate with and assist the federal  
22 government, the municipalities of this state, and other persons in  
23 the development of aeronautics, including aeronautics involving  
24 electrically powered aircraft, and shall seek to coordinate the  
25 aeronautical activities of these bodies and persons. Municipalities  
26 are authorized to cooperate with the department in the development of  
27 aeronautics and aeronautical facilities in this state.

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

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