
HOUSE BILL 2836

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Lovick, Boehnke, Valdez, Gregerson, Ortiz-Self, Riccelli, Shewmake, Kloba, Mead, Doglio, Entenman, Tarleton, Hudgins, Ryu, Pettigrew, Thai, Morgan, Santos, Lekanoff, Slatter, Orwall, Davis, Sells, Goodman, Appleton, J. Johnson, and Chopp

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing an unpiloted aircraft system
2 state coordinator; amending RCW 47.68.020; and adding a new section
3 to chapter 47.68 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.68
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The aviation division director or the aviation division
8 director's designee shall act as the unpiloted aircraft system
9 coordinator. As the senior state aviation official, the duties of the
10 unpiloted aircraft system coordinator include:

11 (a) Assisting with unpiloted aircraft system training,
12 certification, and continuing education for state agencies;

13 (b) Coordinating with local governments on state and federal
14 unpiloted aircraft system policies, rule making, and regulations;

15 (c) Acting as a state level coordinator for unpiloted aircraft
16 system operations during a governor declaration of emergency pursuant
17 to RCW 43.06.210;

18 (d) Coordinating with the federal aviation administration and
19 state agencies on unpiloted aircraft system safety and accident
20 trends;

1 (e) Identifying and disseminating information on unpiloted
2 aircraft system training sites;

3 (f) Establishing and maintaining an unpiloted aircraft system
4 coordination web site for state and local governments;

5 (g) Assisting with the advancement of unpiloted aircraft systems
6 across the state in coordination with the department of commerce and
7 the aerospace industry;

8 (h) Acting as the principle advisor to the secretary on unpiloted
9 aircraft system matters;

10 (i) Undertaking other unpiloted aircraft system coordination
11 duties that are deemed appropriate by the aviation division director
12 and the unpiloted aircraft system coordinator including, but not
13 limited to, overseeing unpiloted aircraft system symposiums or other
14 events for state agencies and other stakeholder groups.

15 (2) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.68.020 and 1993 c 208 s 4 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates
19 otherwise:

20 (1) "Aeronautics" means the science and art of flight and
21 including, but not limited to, transportation by aircraft; the
22 operation, construction, repair, or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft
23 power plants and accessories, including the repair, packing, and
24 maintenance of parachutes; the design, establishment, construction,
25 extension, operation, improvement, repair, or maintenance of airports
26 or air navigation facilities; and instruction in flying or ground
27 subjects pertaining thereto.

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

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

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

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

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

38 (7) "Air navigation facility" means any facility, other than one
39 owned or operated by the United States, used in, available for use

1 in, or designed for use in aid of air navigation, including any
2 structures, mechanisms, lights, beacons, markers, communicating
3 systems, or other instrumentalities or devices used or useful as an
4 aid, or constituting an advantage or convenience, to the safe taking-
5 off, navigation, and landing of aircraft, or the safe and efficient
6 operation or maintenance of an airport, and any combination of any or
7 all of such facilities.

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

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

24 (10) "Aeronautics instructor" means any individual who for hire
25 or reward engages in giving instruction or offering to give
26 instruction in flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics,
27 but excludes any instructor in a public school, university, or
28 institution of higher learning duly accredited and approved for
29 carrying on collegiate work, who instructs in flying or ground
30 subjects pertaining to aeronautics, while in the performance of his
31 or her duties at such school, university, or institution.

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

38 (12) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership,
39 corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body

1 politic; and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other
2 similar representative thereof.

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

6 (14) "Airport hazard" means any structure, object of natural
7 growth, or use of land, which obstructs the airspace required for the
8 flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an airport or is
9 otherwise hazardous to such landing or taking off.

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

13 (16) "Aviation division" means the aeronautics division of the
14 department.

15 (17) "Unpiloted aircraft system" means an aircraft operated
16 without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or
17 on the aircraft. An unpiloted aircraft system must meet the same
18 criteria and standards established by the federal aviation
19 administration for an unmanned aircraft system.

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