
HOUSE BILL 2609

State of Washington

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By Representatives Hine, G. Fisher, R. Fisher, Brough, Heavey, Locke, Chandler, Leonard, Valle, Wood, Prentice, Hochstatter, Mitchell, Horn, Rasmussen, Paris, R. King, Beck, Spanel, Nelson, Appelwick, Wilson, Franklin, Wang, Jacobsen and Belcher

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to air transportation; amending RCW 47.86.030;
2 adding a new section to chapter 53.08 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that an integrated
6 air transportation system with efficient intermodal linkages is vital
7 to the economic and social vitality of the state. Coordination and
8 cooperation among public agencies and between the public and private
9 sector is crucial to the development of such a system. In 1990 the
10 legislature created the air transportation commission to develop an air
11 transportation strategy, implicitly based upon the coordination and
12 cooperation of these entities.

13 Specifically, the commission will assess the state-wide
14 implications of local and regional air transportation planning,

1 establish specific goals for air transportation, and define the
2 relationship between air transportation and environmental and economic
3 policy goals. It will also formulate state-wide policy and planning
4 recommendations, and coordinate air transportation with state-wide
5 transportation system planning.

6 Clearly, the commission's work will assist the legislature in
7 developing a comprehensive air transportation policy that will sustain
8 economic development and incorporate the legislature's recently adopted
9 growth strategies. Therefore, the legislature cannot permit any public
10 port, especially one with assets critical to the state's economy, to
11 make substantial capital improvements to its air transportation
12 facilities without making certain that the port's plan is consistent
13 with the needs of the state as expressed in its air transportation
14 policy plan.

15 The final report of the air transportation commission to the
16 legislative transportation committee is due by December 1, 1994, with
17 an interim report to that committee by December 1, 1992.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 53.08 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 No port district may construct a runway of one thousand or more
21 feet before the air transportation commission has submitted its final
22 report to the legislative transportation committee.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.86.030 and 1991 c 231 s 7 are each amended to read
24 as follows:

25 The commission shall conduct studies to determine Washington's
26 long-range air transportation policy, including an assessment of
27 intermodal needs, and to assess the impacts of increasing air traffic
28 upon surrounding communities, including an evaluation of noise

1 mitigation and surface transportation impacts at existing facilities,
2 and the potential impact at new or expanded facilities.

3 The studies shall include, but are not limited to the following:

4 (1) The feasibility of acquiring the Stampede Pass rail line for
5 use as a utility corridor, intermodal high speed transportation
6 corridor or other transportation uses. The study shall include an
7 examination of the ownership of the Stampede Pass rail line right of
8 way and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of preserving the
9 Stampede Pass rail line corridor. It shall include interested public
10 and private agencies when conducting the study. The commission shall
11 encourage local communities and the private sector to financially
12 participate in the study. The commission shall make a presentation of
13 the feasibility findings to the legislative transportation committee on
14 or before December 1, 1990.

15 (2) Recommendations to the legislature on future Washington state
16 air transportation policy, including the expansion of existing and
17 potential air carrier and reliever facilities and the siting of such
18 new facilities, specifically taking into consideration intermodal
19 needs. The commission shall consider the development of wayports in
20 eastern Washington, taking into account similar developments in Japan
21 and Germany, in order to reduce congestion resulting from rapid growth
22 in the Puget Sound region. The commission shall coordinate its study
23 of airport siting policy issues with the efforts of the high-speed
24 ground transportation steering committee.

25 The commission shall submit findings and recommendations to the
26 legislative transportation committee by December 1, 1994, with an
27 interim report to be presented to the legislative transportation
28 committee by December 1, 1992.

29 (3) A review of the final draft of the Puget Sound air
30 transportation committee's flight plan report in light of its findings

1 and recommendations about air transportation policy. The review shall
2 determine whether the flight plan findings are consistent with the
3 findings and recommendations in the commission's final report. If they
4 are not, the commission shall propose to the legislature alternatives
5 to the flight plan recommendations.

6 (4) A review of the environmental, social, and economic costs
7 associated with the expansion and operation of Washington state's air
8 transportation system. The commission shall consider in its review,
9 the values and attitudes of the state's citizens towards noise, air,
10 and water pollution, land consumption, urban growth patterns, and
11 overall environmental quality. It shall also assess the effectiveness
12 and reasonableness of current or planned practices to mitigate the
13 adverse environmental effects of operating, developing, or expanding
14 the state's air transportation system. The commission shall recommend
15 changes to mitigation practices if its assessment determines current or
16 planned practices to be insufficient.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
20 effect immediately.