
SENATE BILL 5824

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators McCoy, Hobbs, Takko, and Chase

Read first time 02/15/17. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to conducting a comprehensive study of aerial
2 imagery needs for state agencies and local governments intended to
3 provide officials with the information needed for day-to-day business
4 workflow and decision-making tasks; creating new sections; and
5 providing an expiration date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that state
8 agencies and local governments increasingly rely on high-resolution
9 aerial imagery to conduct their business. Local disaster agencies use
10 aerial images for public safety efforts. County assessors use oblique
11 pictures as an integral part of their valuation activities. State
12 department officials rely on aerial images for the development of
13 commerce plans and to manage natural resources effectively.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that there are impediments to
15 agencies acquiring high-quality aerial imagery. Typical barriers for
16 local governments are the cost of acquiring and managing the tool, a
17 lack of technical expertise to obtain, install, and maintain the
18 resource, and a lack of legal and pragmatic infrastructure to
19 facilitate sharing.

20 (3) The legislature further finds that successful decisions
21 depend on reliable, accurate, and timely information. When imagery is

1 not timely updated, government decisions may be made based on
2 inaccurate information. Creating a statewide repository for high-
3 quality aerial imagery for distribution between state and local
4 governments would result in lower costs to all users, better informed
5 decisions, more frequent updating of data, and reduced waste from
6 duplication of efforts by multiple agencies.

7 (4) The legislature further finds that the mission and key role
8 of the department of natural resources is to convene local, state,
9 and regional governments to enhance and promote sustainable community
10 in Washington state. The department of natural resources understands
11 and supports the diverse needs of local leaders in cities, towns, and
12 counties across the state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) Subject to the availability of
14 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of
15 natural resources shall conduct an aerial imagery needs assessment
16 study for state agencies and local governments statewide. The purpose
17 of the study is to identify the needs of state agencies and local
18 governments and to determine the appropriate agency for hosting a
19 statewide imagery repository. Ultimately, this imagery information is
20 being collected so that state and local officials have better
21 information available as they conduct everyday business, protect
22 property, assist citizens, conduct emergency planning, and respond to
23 disasters. The information should be available in one repository to
24 ensure that all cities, counties, and taxing districts have access.

25 (b) The assessment study must evaluate the need by determining a
26 minimum resolution level that best serves the majority of users
27 statewide. Individual counties requiring greater topographical
28 resolution can satisfy those needs independently.

29 (2) The assessment study must, at a minimum:

30 (a) Include an assessment of:

31 (i) Aerial imagery needs of state agencies and local governments;

32 (ii) Types of imagery needed;

33 (iii) Frequency that various types of imagery are needed;

34 (iv) The current amount of funds that agencies spend on imagery;

35 (v) The best available mechanism for cost sharing and managing
36 the acquisition of imagery;

37 (vi) The best methods of maximizing the accurate display of
38 aerial photography through light detection and ranging or the global
39 positioning system;

1 (vii) Capturing both orthoimages and oblique images;
2 (viii) A cost-benefit analysis of frequency of flights for more
3 current data; and
4 (ix) The most effective organization to act as a central
5 repository for shared imagery and provide a secured means to share
6 between public bodies; and
7 (b) Identify and interview a sample of state department
8 representatives and county officials to assess their needs and
9 priorities for the future development and use for the imagery data
10 provided.
11 (3) The department of natural resources must convene and define
12 the scope of the assessment study and assist in the design of
13 information collection. The department of commerce may complete its
14 work directly or utilize the services of consultants to complete its
15 assignment or portions of the assignment. However, the final
16 delivered product must be issued by the department of natural
17 resources.
18 (4) The assessment study must include recommendations on current
19 sources that provide imagery data, further steps to improve the
20 collection of aerial imagery data, and steps necessary to implement a
21 comprehensive, cost-efficient, aerial imagery collection and
22 distribution system to serve state and county officials in a
23 statewide system.
24 (5) By October 15, 2017, the assessment study must be completed
25 and the results reported to the legislature in accordance with the
26 requirements of RCW 43.01.036.
27 (6) This section expires June 30, 2018.

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