H-0005.2

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**HOUSE BILL 1198**

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**State of Washington 67th Legislature 2021 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Dent and Orwall

AN ACT Relating to the state commercial aviation coordinating commission; amending 2019 c 396 ss 1-5 (uncodified); providing expiration dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

**Sec.**  2019 c 396 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

The legislature finds that with the increase in air traffic operations, combined with the projections for the rapid expansion of these operations in both the short and the long term, concerns regarding the environmental, health, social, and economic impacts of air traffic are increasing as well. The legislature also finds that advancing Washington's position as a national and international trading leader is dependent upon the development of a highly competitive, statewide passenger and cargo air transportation system. Therefore, the legislature seeks to identify a location for a new primary commercial aviation facility in Washington, taking into consideration the data and conclusions of appropriate air traffic studies, community representatives, and industry experts. Options for a new primary commercial aviation facility in Washington may include expansion of an existing airport facility. It is the intent of the legislature to establish a state commercial aviation coordinating commission to provide a location recommendation by January 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024. The legislature also recognizes any preferred location will require substantial environmental, land use, governance, and funding decisions from state and local governments.

**Sec.**  2019 c 396 s 2 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

(1) The state commercial aviation coordinating commission is created to carry out the functions of this chapter. The commission shall consist of fifteen voting members.

(2) The governor shall appoint thirteen voting members to represent the following interests:

(a) Four as representatives of commercial service airports and ports, one of whom shall represent a port located in a county with a population of two million or more, one of whom shall represent a port in eastern Washington with an airport runway of at least thirteen thousand five hundred feet in length, one of whom shall represent a commercial service airport in eastern Washington located in a county with a population of four hundred thousand or more, and one representing an association of ports;

(b) Three as representatives from the airline industry and the private sector;

(c) Two citizen representatives with one appointed from eastern Washington and one appointed from western Washington. The citizen appointees must:

(i) Represent the public interests in the communities that are included in the commission's site research; and

(ii) Understand the impacts of a large commercial aviation facility on a community;

(d) A representative from the freight forwarding industry;

(e) A representative from the trucking industry;

(f) A representative from a community organization that understands the impacts of a large commercial aviation facility on a community; and

(g) A representative from a statewide environmental organization.

(3) The remaining two members shall consist of:

(a) A representative from the department of commerce; and

(b) A representative from the division of aeronautics of the department of transportation.

(4) The commission shall invite the following nonvoting members:

(a) A representative from the Washington state aviation alliance;

(b) A representative from the department of defense;

(c) Two members from the senate, with one member from each of the two largest caucuses in the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

(d) Two members from the house of representatives, with one member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(e) A representative from the division of aeronautics of the department of transportation;

(f) A representative from an eastern Washington metropolitan planning organization;

(g) A representative from a western Washington metropolitan planning organization;

(h) A representative from an eastern Washington regional airport; and

(i) A representative from a western Washington regional airport.

(5) The governor may appoint additional nonvoting members as deemed appropriate.

(6) The commission shall select a chair from among its membership and shall adopt rules related to its powers and duties under this chapter.

(7) Legislative members of the commission are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW. The commission has all powers necessary to carry out its duties as prescribed by this chapter.

(8) The department of transportation shall provide staff support for coordinating and administering the commission and technical assistance as requested by commission members. The department shall consider cost-saving options such as using online conferencing tools. Meetings shall be held in Olympia, Washington unless resources allow for alternative locations.

(9) At the direction of the commission, and as resources allow, the department of transportation is authorized to hire a consultant to assist with the review and research efforts of the commission. The contract is exempt from the competitive procurement requirements in chapter 39.26 RCW.

(10) The department of transportation shall convene the initial meeting of the commission as soon as practicable.

(11) This section expires July 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024.

**Sec.**  2019 c 396 s 3 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

(1) The state commercial aviation coordinating commission will review existing data and conduct research to determine Washington's long-range commercial aviation facility needs and the site of a new primary commercial aviation facility. Research for each potential site must include the feasibility of constructing a commercial aviation facility in that location and its potential environmental, community, and economic impacts. Options for a new primary commercial aviation facility in Washington may include expansion of an existing airport facility but may not include siting a facility on or in the vicinity of a military installation that would be incompatible with the installation's ability to carry out its mission requirements. The work of the commission shall include the following:

(a) Recommendations to the legislature on future Washington state long-range commercial aviation facility needs including possible additional aviation facilities or expansion of current aviation facilities, excluding those located in a county with a population of two million or more with the highest volume of deplanements, to meet anticipated commercial aviation, general aviation, and air cargo demands. The commission shall explore the use of community benefits agreements in making its recommendations; and

(b) Identifying a preferred location for a new primary commercial aviation facility. The commission shall make recommendations and shall select a single preferred location by a sixty percent majority vote using the following process:

(i) Initiating a broad review of potential sites;

(ii) Recommending a final short list of no more than six locations by January 1, ((~~2021~~)) 2023;

(iii) Identifying the top two locations from the final six locations by September 1, ((~~2021~~)) 2023; and

(iv) Identifying a single preferred location for a new primary commercial aviation facility by January 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024.

(2) The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the transportation committees of the legislature by January 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024. The commission must allow a minority report to be included with the commission report if requested by a voting member of the commission.

(3) This section expires July 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024.

**Sec.**  2019 c 396 s 4 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

(1) The state commercial aviation coordinating commission shall project a timeline for the development of an additional commercial aviation facility that is completed and functional by 2040.

(2) This section expires July 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024.

**Sec.**  2019 c 396 s 5 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

(1) Nothing in this act shall be construed to endorse, limit, or otherwise alter existing or future plans for capital development and capacity enhancement at existing commercial airports in Washington.

(2) This section expires July 1, ((~~2022~~)) 2024.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

**--- END ---**