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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2609**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1992 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored 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 02/11/92.

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 political subdivision or municipal corporation of the state of  
21 Washington may construct any runway of one thousand feet or more or  
22 cause any runway to be extended before the air transportation  
23 commission has submitted its final report to the legislative  
24 transportation committee.

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

27 The commission shall conduct studies to determine Washington's  
28 long-range air transportation policy, including an assessment of

1 intermodal needs, and to assess the impacts of increasing air traffic  
2 upon surrounding communities, including an evaluation of noise  
3 mitigation and surface transportation impacts at existing facilities,  
4 and the potential impact at new or expanded facilities.

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

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

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

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

1       (3) A review of the final draft of the Puget Sound air  
2 transportation committee's flight plan report in light of its findings  
3 and recommendations about air transportation policy. The review shall  
4 determine whether the flight plan findings are consistent with the  
5 findings and recommendations in the commission's final report. If they  
6 are not, the commission shall propose to the legislature alternatives  
7 to the flight plan recommendations.

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

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