

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS HB 3022

Title: An act relating to designation of a regional spaceport authority.

Brief Description: Promoting the development of a Washington spaceport.

Sponsors: Representatives Van Luven, Veloria, G. Chandler, Dunn, Eickmeyer, Morris, Miloscia, Radcliff, Skinner, D. Sommers, Campbell, Mulliken and Wood.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BILL

- Creates the Office of Washington Spaceport Development, in the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, to assist in the development of a spaceport in the state.
- Authorizes a port district or a consortium of two or more port districts to establish a spaceport and develop and maintain facilities used for the takeoff, landing, retrieving, servicing, and monitoring of vehicles capable of entering space.

HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & TRADE COMMITTEE

Staff: Kenny Pittman (786-7392)

Background:

The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) is responsible for preparing communities to respond to economic opportunities through the creation, retention, or expansion of the local job base. This is accomplished through the provision of technical assistance or direct financial assistance to local governmental entities.

The Legislature authorized the creation of port districts for the purpose developing, maintaining, and operating facilities used for the storage, transportation, transfer of goods. The facilities include harbor improvements, rail or motor vehicle transfer and terminal facilities, air transfer and terminal facilities, or any combination of such transfer and terminal facilities.

The Lockheed Martin Company is in the process of developing a reusable space vehicle (Venture Star) for launching satellites into orbit, supporting the development of the International Space Station, and conducting government and scientific research. The Lockheed Martin Company will be considering sites for the location of two potential spaceport launch and landing sites. It is expected that the development of the spaceport will create 2,000 to 3,000 construction jobs and 1,000 to 1,500 jobs for

the operation of the spaceport.

Summary of Bill:

The Office of Washington Spaceport Development is created in the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED). The purpose of the office is to serve as the state's official liaison with the federal government and private industry regarding the development of a spaceport in the state.

The duties of the office include: (1) Promotion of space development and space-related activities within the state; (2) provision of technical assistance to a port district and associated local governments and economic development organizations working to secure a federal designation as a spaceport; (3) working with the Washington Economic Development Finance Authority to develop financing programs for the spaceport and spaceport-related activities; (4) soliciting and accepting public and private funds to assist in the establishing of a spaceport in the state; and (5) advising the Governor on policy matters that impact the development of a spaceport and space-related activities in the state.

The powers of port districts are expanded to allow an individual port district or a consortium of two or more port districts to establish facilities used for the takeoff, landing, retrieving, servicing, and monitoring of vehicles capable of entering space (spaceport). A port district proposing to establish a spaceport must work with DCTED to develop documents necessary to secure the federal designation as a spaceport.

A port district or consortium of port districts that secures a federal designation as a spaceport may: (1) Impose fees and charges for the use of the spaceport facility; (2) acquire property used in establishing a spaceport; (3) prepare studies necessary for the establishment of a spaceport; (4) issue bonds to finance the acquisition of real property and the acquisition, construction, or renovation of facilities and equipment needed in the operation and support of a spaceport; (5) negotiate agreements, in consultation with the Washington Department of Transportation, for the overflight or recovery of objects launched from the spaceport; (6) solicit and accept public and private funds for the purpose of developing, constructing, maintaining, and operating a spaceport.

A port district that secures a federal designation as a spaceport must report annually to DCTED's Office of Spaceport Development on the status of the spaceport and other space-related activities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested January 26, 2000.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.