
HOUSE BILL 3022

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Van Luven, Voloria, G. Chandler, Dunn, Eickmeyer, Morris, Miloscia, Radcliff, Skinner, D. Sommers, Campbell, Mulliken and Wood

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to designation of a regional spaceport authority;
2 adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 53
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) There are several commercial spaceports that either operate or
7 are about to begin operation within the United States;

8 (b) All of these spaceports will be launching expendable launch
9 vehicles based on technologies developed many decades ago;

10 (c) Due to the inherent dangers associated with present day
11 expendable launch vehicles, each of these spaceports are located on the
12 shore of or within the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean;

13 (d) A commercially viable spaceport in Washington is only valid if
14 developed primarily for launching reusable launch vehicles;

15 (e) The technologies required to build these vehicles have been
16 developed, however, no true reusable launch vehicle currently exists;

17 (f) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in
18 cooperation with private industry, is currently leading the effort to

1 develop a revolutionary method of getting into space using single-
2 stage-to-orbit reusable launch vehicles; and

3 (g) Current plans involve the testing of a reusable launch vehicle
4 in 2002, followed by commercial operations as early as 2005, with the
5 possible replacement of the space shuttle with the reusable launch
6 vehicle by 2012.

7 (2) It is the intent of this chapter to promote economic growth and
8 job creation through the state designation of a Washington spaceport
9 that would provide the land, airspace, and facilities to enable its
10 customers to achieve low-cost and efficient access to space and support
11 of space and space-related operations.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
13 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
15 economic development.

16 (2) "Director" means the director of community, trade, and economic
17 development.

18 (3) "Office" means the office of Washington spaceport development.

19 (4) "Port district" means a governmental entity created under
20 chapter 53.04 RCW.

21 (5) "Spaceport" means an installation and related facilities used
22 for the takeoff, landing, retrieval, servicing, and monitoring of
23 vehicles capable of entering space.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The office of Washington spaceport
25 development is created within the department. The office shall serve
26 as the state's official liaison with the federal government and private
27 industry representative regarding the development of a spaceport in the
28 state.

29 (2) The office shall:

30 (a) Promote space development and space-related activities in the
31 state;

32 (b) Provide technical assistance to a port district and consortium
33 of local governments and economic development organizations working to
34 secure the necessary federal designation as a spaceport in the state;

35 (c) Work with the Washington economic development finance authority
36 to develop programs that can be used to assist in the financing of the
37 spaceport and space-related activities;

1 (d) Advise the governor and director on policy matters that impact
2 the development of a spaceport and space-related activities in the
3 state;

4 (e) Solicit and accept federal, state, local, and private funds for
5 the purpose of feasibility, environmental, transportation,
6 communication, land use, or technical studies necessary or advisable to
7 the selection or establishment of a spaceport in the state; and

8 (f) Conduct other activities the director deems necessary to secure
9 the location of a spaceport in the state.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** It is the intent of this chapter to promote
11 economic growth and job creation through the development of facilities,
12 in conjunction with private industry, that can be used to support the
13 launch and operation of reusable launch vehicles and space-related
14 businesses in the state. This chapter shall not be construed as
15 modifying or restricting any powers granted to port districts by law.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The definitions in this section apply
17 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

18 (1) "Obligations" means bonds, notes, securities, or other
19 obligations or evidences of indebtedness.

20 (2) "Persons" means any natural person, firm, partnership,
21 association, private or public corporation, or governmental entity.

22 (3) "Port district" means a governmental entity created under
23 chapter 53.04 RCW.

24 (4) "Spaceport" means an installation and related facilities used
25 for the takeoff, landing, retrieval, servicing, and monitoring of
26 vehicles capable of entering space.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) Port districts formed under chapter
28 53.04 RCW, either individually or as part of a consortium consisting of
29 two or more port districts, are authorized to establish a spaceport for
30 the purpose of owning, leasing, equipping, reequipping, acquiring,
31 developing, constructing, operating, and maintaining facilities used
32 for the takeoff, landing, retrieval, servicing, and monitoring of
33 vehicles capable of entering space.

34 (2) A port district proposing to establish a spaceport shall work
35 with the department of community, trade, and economic development's
36 office of Washington spaceport development, created in section 3 of

1 this act, to develop the documents necessary to secure federal
2 designation as a spaceport.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A port district that has established a
4 spaceport under the provisions of this chapter may:

5 (1) Impose fees, rents, tolls, and charges for the use of the
6 spaceport facility or its related services;

7 (2) Acquire real and personal property in its name for the purpose
8 of establishing a spaceport or space-related facility;

9 (3) Perform or cause to be performed environmental, transportation,
10 communication, land use, or technical studies necessary or advisable to
11 establish a spaceport;

12 (4) Issue obligations to persons for the purpose of financing the
13 acquisition of real property and acquisition, construction, or
14 renovation of facilities and equipment necessary for the operation and
15 support of a spaceport or space-related facility;

16 (5) Negotiate agreements, in consultation with the Washington state
17 secretary of transportation, for the overflight or recovery of space
18 vehicles, rockets, missiles, payloads, boosters, scientific
19 experiments, or other space-related materials, debris, or parts;

20 (6) Solicit and accept federal, state, local, and private funds for
21 the purpose of developing, constructing, maintaining, and operating a
22 spaceport; and

23 (7) Report annually to the department of community, trade, and
24 economic development's office of Washington spaceport development on
25 the status of the spaceport and other space-related activities
26 undertaken by the port district.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute
28 a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 4 through 7 of this act constitute
30 a new chapter in Title 53 RCW.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act may be
32 known and cited as the Washington spaceport development act.

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