

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5121

C 316 L 05

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Assessing long-term air transportation needs.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Swecker, Poulsen, Schmidt and Haugen).

Senate Committee on Transportation

House Committee on Transportation

Background: Under current law, counties and cities planning under the Growth Management Act must include in their comprehensive plans a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities. Essential public facilities, under the statute, are those facilities typically difficult to site, including airports. Additionally, no local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities.

Summary: The Aviation Division of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT Aviation) must conduct a statewide airport capacity and facilities assessment. The assessment must include a statewide analysis, regarding both commercial aviation and general aviation, of existing airport facilities, and passenger and air cargo transportation capacity. However, the primary focus of the assessment must be on commercial aviation. The assessment results must be submitted to the Legislature, the Governor, the Transportation Commission, and regional transportation planning organizations, by July 1, 2006.

After submitting the statewide airport capacity and facilities assessment, WSDOT Aviation must conduct a statewide airport capacity and facilities market analysis. The analysis must include a statewide needs analysis of airport facilities, passenger and air cargo transportation capacity, and demand and forecast needs over the next twenty-five years. A more detailed analysis must be conducted regarding the Puget Sound, Southwest Washington, Spokane, and Tri-Cities regions. The analysis must address the forecasted needs of both commercial aviation and general aviation. However, the primary focus of the analysis must be on commercial aviation. The analysis results must be submitted to the Legislature, the Governor, the Transportation Commission, and regional transportation planning organizations, by July 1, 2007.

Upon completion of both the statewide assessment and analysis, the Governor must appoint an Aviation Planning Council to make recommendations, based on the findings of the assessment and analysis, regarding how best to meet the statewide commercial and general aviation capacity needs. The recommendations must include the placement of future commercial and general aviation airport facilities in regions determined to be in need of more improved aviation planning. The Aviation Planning Council must be composed of various aviation planning stakeholders.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	1	
House	93	2	(House amended)
Senate	47	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: July 24, 2005